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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

'Mission Accomplished'

The White House said that President Bush has paid a price for the "Mission Accomplished" banner that was flown five years ago.

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An Afghan woman fleeing domestic violence or accusing a man of rape herself often ends up the guilty party.

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DNA tests have finally solved the mystery of Czar Nicholas II and his family.

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Daycares may reduce staff or face closure. **PAGE 7**

\$68.8M Golftel breaks ground



By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Laolao Bay Golf Resort broke ground on its \$68.8-million Golftel project yesterday with Kumho Asiana executives joining local government officials led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in what is easily Saipan's biggest construction undertaking in more than a decade.

See **\$68.8M** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate president Pete Reyes, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Jerry Tan, Kumho Resort president Bong Ku Kim, and Korean Association of Saipan vice president Ty Yoon push the levers of a detonation control box to activate the fireworks during the groundbreaking ceremony of the \$68.8-million Golftel Development Project at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman yesterday morning. Inset shows the explosion of fireworks.

AFTER FEDERALIZATION

Pula: Still much work to be done

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The lead official for Washington's relationships with insular areas says the Commonwealth should not lose sight of pressing economic issues while the new immigration system is being implemented.

Nikolao Pula, the acting

deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, said that after the passage of the "federalization" bill, there is still a lot of work ahead for the federal agencies and the local government to implement the legislation.



Pula

Meantime, he said, "we must keep in mind the CNMI's pressing need for basic essential services like power, water, energy, health, education, law enforcement, including critical incentives to help

See **PULA** on Page 4

Fitial promises 'candid' SOCA today

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

Lawmakers expect candidness, and that is what the administration vows to give them when the governor delivers his state of the Commonwealth address this morning.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the governor's

speech will be "a candid, realistic assessment" of the commonwealth's situation.

"As in the past, the governor is not going to be very optimistic, nor very pessimistic. He will strive to strike a balance—be temperate, reasonable," said Reyes.

According to the governor's spokesman, the key



Fitial

See **FITIAL** on Page 4

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Local

MHS JROTC bests 36 schools

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School JROTC prevailed against 36 other high school teams at the 13th Brigade Inaugural Academic Challenge Competition held recently.

MHS JROTC competed in the senior division, scoring 98 percent in the academic challenge test while the average score was 80 percent across the region.

They bested both private and public high school teams from the United States West Coast, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and Alaska.

According to LTC Robert Gay, the JROTC Brigade Academic Challenge reflects the national competition created exclusively for JROTC cadets.

The participating cadets undergo a rigorous online testing exercise that evaluates their knowledge of several interdis-

iplinary subjects.

Topics include JROTC curriculum, military history, civics, current events, leadership, behavioral science, physical education, first aid, the U.S. Constitution, trivia and SAT related subject areas.

The cadets who participated took a 50-question timed exam where the team leader synthesizes the group's collective knowledge and makes a decision within 30 seconds for each question.

The MHS JROTC was recognized Wednesday afternoon by MHS principal Karen Borja, in front of the high school assembly. She recognized and praised the accomplishments of the MHS JROTC program and academic team.

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Revenue-generating bill now heads to Fitial

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives gave the final legislative approval to an omnibus bill that would help the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to pay for fuel.

The bill passed 16-2, with Reps. Tina Sablan and Edward Salas voting no. Rep. Stanley T. Torres abstained, and Rep. Ray N. Yumul was absent.

The measure now heads to the Governor's Office for signature. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to sign the bill, which a top administration official has said the government "needs desperately."

The measure would suspend the power rates rollback up to Dec. 31, 2008, and allow the Public Utilities Commission to issue emergency and interim power rates. It would ease quorum requirements for PUC, allowing the regulatory board to set rates even if there is only one commissioner.

The proposed law also incorporates fiscal measures such as the reduction of the government's pension contribution rate from 18 percent to 11 percent of the total payroll. Half of the savings—about \$5.63 million—from the reduction would go to CUC's fuel expenses. Some \$80,000 would

go to PUC's startup operations. The rest—approximately \$5.55 million—would be used at the governor's discretion.

Further, the bill would grant the governor unlimited reprogramming power over lapsed funding, re-appropriate some \$2.15 million of suspended earmarks to CUC's fuel expenses, and allow CUC to use half of its customers' security deposits for fuel.

The bill also contains provisions that would apply gross business tax on banks, and double the fees and charges for services such as driver license, vehicle registration, firearms license, police report, and marriage license.

The bill is a product of talks among the members of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, administration officials, and the PUC chairwoman.

Sablan, a co-sponsor of the original bill that called only for the reversal of the power rates rollback, strongly opposed the omnibus legislation. She said the bill was, "at its core, an act of fear and poor planning."

"While I fully realize the dire situation into which CUC has fallen, we solve neither our immediate nor our long term problems to raise taxes without

cutting costs, or to borrow from the Retirement Fund which is teetering on the brink of insolvency because of this government's continuing failure to pay what it owes," she said.

Sablan added that there was insufficient data on how the legislation would impact the Retirement Fund, the projects to be

affected by the reprogramming, and the banks that would have to pay higher taxes.

She took issue with a provision granting seed money to PUC while it remains unknown what became of the funds left by the commission's predecessor, the defunct Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission.


Further, she raised objection to the PUC quorum provision. "Why, then, even have a PUC? Is it really that much worse to have an unregulated utility, than to have one or two PUC czars calling the shots under the guise of oversight?" she asked.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said he is also concerned about some of the provisions, but the urgency of CUC's fiscal problems trumps any objections he

has about the bill.

"When a vessel carrying fuel comes over and CUC is penniless, we have to do something. This bill is not fear-driven, it deals with reality," Palacios said.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider echoed Palacios' statement. He said the bill is "a tourniquet approach," but the urgency of the situation calls for a compromise.



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One down, 39 more Rota charter flights to go

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Development, Inc. bid adieu to the passengers of the inaugural Rota charter flight last April 30 and said it looks forward to welcoming the 39 other charters scheduled through 2009 from Japan.

General manager Gordon Marciano said that, like the arrival, the departure of the maiden charter flight to the southernmost island of the CNMI was smooth.

"The tourists initially were worried when they first heard that the Rota terminal was very small and were advised that checking through immigration and departure at TSA would be a challenge. But to their amazement, there were no difficulties at all. They had shared how professional the personnel were from CPA, Immigration, and TSA and were all smiles as they entered the departure area."

Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos was once again in full support of PDI and its mother company, Kinki Nippon Tourist Co.,

Ltd., as he and local students handed out leis to the departing tourists.

"One of the guests was so excited that you could hear his voice shouting in excitement that he'll be back again to see Rota," said Marciano.

After the inaugural Rota charter flight took off, Inos and the rest of Team PDI stayed at the airport, this time to await the second flight from Narita.

"The same, warm welcome and greeting through the arrival area went well and was very smooth but this time processing of the tourists was faster and earlier than the first flight. Again the guest got to their hotels without any delays," said Marciano, who added that despite the lack of tour buses on the island the transportation of tourists from one site to the other went without a hitch.

For his part, PDI president Yoichi Matsumura extended his heartfelt appreciation to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Rota Delegation, Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, and all the numerous supporters that made the

Rota charter flights a success.

"Without their support and cooperation the realization of this project would not have been possible," he said.

Matsumura also thanked the contributions made by Makoto Yashiro, who was the mastermind and the man behind the success of the Rota charter project.

"He has entered a two-year contract to support this project with Continental Airlines. He is very happy the Rota charter project is progressing very well."

After the three Rota charters this Golden Week—the third is set to arrive on May 4—Rota will welcome 37 more this coming June, July, and August and the remaining months until April 2009.

The Rota charter flights are expected to bring in some 8,000 tourists to Rota in about a year. KNT has chartered Continental Airlines to bring in the new Rota flights. Continental Airlines is using its 155-seater Boeing 737 aircraft to service the island.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Makoto Yashiro at the tarmac of the Rota International Airport.

FITIAL

From Page 1

points the governor will touch on include immigration federalization, minimum wage, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the government's financial status, and economic developments over the past year.

The House of Representatives and the Senate will hold a joint session today to receive annual reports from the governor and Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C. The event will be held in the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, starting at 10am.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said he expects the governor to provide the Legislature an honest assessment of the last two years that he has been in office. He also hopes the governor to share his plans on how to address the power crisis and the economy.

"Reality," Rep. Heinz Hofschneider

replied when asked what he wanted the governor to talk about in his speech. "I think our people deserve to know our state of affairs—no holds barred."

Hofschneider also said he hopes the governor will appeal to the lawmakers and the community to participate in finding solutions to the Commonwealth's problems. He said the cost of government should be at the top of the agenda. "We cannot afford to pay personnel. We need to make tough choices," he said.

For Rep. Tina Sablan, the most important thing is the governor's plan for CUC and the federal funds for capital improvement projects which she said should be reprogrammed to the utility.

"I want to know if the governor plans to finally tap into those funds which, if he wishes, can be used for the utilities. And if he does not wish to use them, then I am hoping for an explanation as to why," Sablan said.

"A plan for economy recovery would also be good. But even that hinges upon the reliability of our utility," she added.

NEW NMI LAWYERS

New NMI Bar passers, from left, Janet Han King, James W. Hofman II, Braddock J. Huesman, and Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. take their oath of attorney yesterday at the Supreme Court.

See related story on Page 6.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE



PULA

From Page 1

its economy."

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday took the final legislative step in applying federal immigration law to the Northern Marianas and granting the CNMI non-voting delegate to the U.S. House.

The bill now heads to the White

House, where the president is expected to act on the bill within 10 days of receiving it.

Pula, in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, recalled that the Bush administration testified before Congress in support of the original legislation.

While the bill has been controversial, Pula said he believes everyone would back the opportunity to have a delegate in Congress.

"The Department of the Interior has

been a strong advocate of a CNMI delegate. It would have been a wonderful opportunity if the CNMI have had a delegate to the U.S. Congress in the wake of the recent hearings dealing with issues that were of critical importance to its development. Thus, establishing the delegate position by the U.S. Congress is a monumental and historic step for the Commonwealth," he said.

But he also acknowledged that not

all segments of the CNMI community might feel the same way about different provisions of the bill. He implied that those concerns might be addressed through the regulations that are still to be drafted.

"It is important to note that after this significant action by the Congress, there is still much work to be done by federal agencies and the CNMI to implement this legislation," said Pula.

The CNMI's economic problems

will be taken into consideration, he added.

The CNMI government and local businesses have opposed the bill. Employers fear that Washington would be restrictive in allowing guest workers into the Commonwealth. They say the loss of foreign skilled, but cheap labor could threaten their businesses, which are now struggling because of the economic crisis on the islands.

\$68.8M

From Page 1

Kumho Resort president Bong Ku Kim said the project to build a world-class golf resort is further proof that their mother company is dead serious in its commitment to invest in the Commonwealth.

"Less than one and a half years from now the CNMI community will have one of the best golf resorts in the world and [it would be] added to your list of [tourist] attractions," he said. "I'm certain that our effort to work with you will continue, especially together with Asiana Airlines, our sister company in the Kumho Asiana group umbrella."

Fitial, for his part, said the groundbreaking represents one of the most

important economic developments for the CNMI.

"Today is truly historic [as it] marks a major milestone in the development of our tourism industry, and I'm very proud to be a part of this development," he said.

The islands' top executive said that Kumho Asiana's \$68.8-million GolfTel project comes in the heels of the conglomerate increasing flight service to the islands.

"This is further evidence of Kumho Asiana's solid commitment to the CNMI. This is not a plan or a dream. This is a concrete, multi-million dollar golf resort project now getting underway. And this development comes nearly a year after Asiana added four additional daytime flights and launched new daily flight service from Seoul to Saipan."

Fitial said that he is very pleased with Kumho Asiana's decision to develop Laolao Bay Golf Resort as well as increase flights for the betterment of the CNMI economy. In turn, the governor wishes continued success for the company and said his administration will stand by "the investment and do everything in its power to ensure its continued success."

Marianas Visitors Authority chair Jerry Tan, meanwhile, looks at the investment as a way of luring more tourists into the Commonwealth.

"The project itself will not only generate more golfers. First, the golfers will bring in their families whenever they come here for vacation; and second, golfers are known as high-end spenders. And that's part of MVA's plan to upgrade our destination and at-

tract more high-end tourists. This project will help us achieve that," he said.

Laolao Bay Golf Resort president Sun Don Jung presented a brief project summary and said the GolfTel is scheduled to open in November 2009.

The \$68.8-million project will involve two phases. The first phase will cost \$54.2 million and involve the construction of two GolfTel towers with 73 lodging units, five independent-structure golf villas, completion of the full facilities and services (fitness center, swimming pool and spa, banquet rooms, and snack bar), and extended clubhouse and the renovation of the original clubhouse.

Phase two of the project, which has a budget of \$13.1 million, is composed of the construction of the third GolfTel tower with 37 lodging units and two

independent-structure golf villas.

Laolao Bay Golf Resort also plans renovate its Greg Norman-designed course and that is expected to cost another \$1.5 million. The first phase is expected to be completed in 2009, while the second phase is scheduled to be finished in 2012.

The groundbreaking ceremony yesterday was held with much fanfare as, instead of shovels, Laolao Bay Golf Resort opted to have Kim, Fitial, Tan, Senate President Pete Reyes, and Korea Association vice president Ty Yoon signal the start of construction by pushing the levers of a detonation control box that set off fireworks a few meters away.

The \$68.8-million GolfTel project is the biggest construction on the island since Hafadai Beach Hotel opened its 20-floor Taga Tower back in 1997.

PSS Compact Funds used to pay personnel

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System had used its second set of \$4 million in Compact Funds to pay for personnel in Fiscal Year 2007.

The compact funds issued to PSS were originally intended for maintenance and repair of school facilities.

According to Education Commissioner David Borja, PSS had

initially asked for \$4 million over a two-year period—\$2 million in 2006 and \$2 million in 2007.

"The first \$2 million we did use in 2006 for maintenance and repair of our school facilities and design work of projects," Borja said.

However, in FY 2007, PSS experienced a funding shortfall due to the 15.56 percent proportional reduction in its budget

amount of \$38.7 million.

Although earmarked for maintenance and repairs, the second \$2 million, with the approval of the Board of Education, was used to pay personnel in FY 2007, Borja said.

In 2004, PSS had aggressively lobbied for a share in the Compact funds, saying that its immediate needs even exceed the available annual grant of \$5.1 million.

In January 2004, PSS submitted a \$5.6 million funding request to cover the educational-related costs of Freely Associated States students in the CNMI.

PSS had said that \$1.8 million would be needed for personnel and operating support cost of FAS students, \$2.6 million for the classroom needs of FAS students, and \$1.25 million for buses.

There are approximately 300 FAS students enrolled with PSS of the 10,742 student population of K-12.

The Compact funding of \$5.1 million is the CNMI's share in the \$30 million federal appropriation to compensate territories on FAS migration-related costs.

The Compact legislation pro-

vides that \$30 million will be divided each year for 20 years among the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and American Samoa to help these jurisdictions deal with the effects of migration from FSM, Palau and the Marshall Islands, which are commonly known as the freely associated states or FAS.

Miura counsel wants new extension to file a petition

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The legal counsel of Kazuyoshi Miura wants another extension to file a petition for habeas corpus in challenging the extradition case filed against the Japanese businessman.

Attorney Mark Hanson, one of Miura's three lawyers on Saipan, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that their legal team and chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. will submit a stipulation for a new extension today, Friday, to Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona.

"It looks like we're going to try to wait for one more time," Hanson said.

The lawyer said he and co-counsel Bruce Berline had a meeting with Manglona yesterday afternoon about another extension, but Warfield failed to come.

"But we basically agreed to some dates when we talked with the judge about it," Hanson pointed out.

He said the primary reason for the need to have another extension is to see what is going to develop in the California Superior Court.

Hanson said they want to see the outcome of the California hearing that was set for May 9.

"It may change for what we have to do here. So we will see what's going to happen," he said.

Last March 19, Manglona granted Miura's request to give him a month to file the petition for habeas corpus.

Manglona gave Miura's legal team no later than April 18 to file the petition for habeas corpus and allowed the Attorney General's Office to file its opposition on or before May 2.

The judge said the defendant's counsel would have until May 8 to reply to the government's opposition.

Manglona set the hearing on the petition and the extradition complaint for May 28 at 1:30pm.

Last April 17, Miura's legal team and Warfield agreed to request the court to allow a two-week extension for Miura to file his petition for habeas corpus. Following the stipulation, Manglona granted the request.

Berline and Warfield reached the extension agreement due to the scheduled April 23 hearing in the Superior Court of Los Angeles.

In the stipulation, Berline and Warfield said the April 23 hearing is about Miura's motion to quash the underlying California arrest warrant against the defendant in the L.A. Superior Court.

The lawyers said a ruling from that motion "may be dispositive" of the extradition matter filed against Miura in the CNMI Superior Court.

The 60-year-old Miura was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport

on Feb. 22 in connection with the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in L.A. in 1981.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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Auto, Beige
Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
Mileage: 41649

\$14,999



USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS							
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	14,999

GM CARS

R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	7,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	7,999
R08-005	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	6,999
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	7,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	9,999

LEXUS

R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999
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TOYOTA TRUCKS

U08-020R	2006	TACOMA 4X2 A/CAB	AUTO	33442	BEIGE	ADU-051	14,999
U08-024R	2006	TACOMA 4X2 A/CAB	MANUAL	46950	RED	CWMAN001	16,099
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,499

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,599
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,599
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	15,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899

VANS

R08-006F	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VANS	AUTO	118546	WHITE	BUS-1079	10,299
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SPORT UTILITY

U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	19,099



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2x4x16	\$6.10/Pc	\$5.75/Pc
2x4x18	\$6.90/Pc	\$6.30/Pc
2x4x20	\$7.40/Pc	\$6.90/Pc
2x6x14	\$8.50/Pc	
2x6x20	\$11.90/Pc	
Treated		
2x4x18	\$9.90/Pc	
2x4x20	\$11.50/Pc	
2x6x12	\$11.60/Pc	
2x6x16	\$14.50/Pc	

Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26)
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Plyform (5/8"):
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Thin-Set Mortar:
\$9.80 Custom (c.cure), gray, from U.S.
\$8.80 Nicbond, 55lbs/bag

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U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS
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10" pvc white pipe 4" \$12/pc
Ceiling tile 2*4 \$3.00/pc
Rope \$2/pc
US Lumber 15% off
Roof tin 15% off
Shower room 35% off
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Formica \$5/pc
Ceramic tile \$0.3/pc

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King, Warfield, two other NMI Bar passers take oath

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Miss CNMI Universe Janet Han King and chief prosecutor Jeffery L. Warfield Sr., along with two others who passed the NMI Bar, took their oath of attorney yesterday in the Supreme Court.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona administered the swearing in of attorneys King, Warfield, James W. Hofman II, and Braddock J. Huesman.

In a brief speech, a teary-eyed King stated that her parents—Juan Borja King and Lucy Han King—taught her to build a strong foundation.

"We talk about the rule of law, commitment, integrity, sincerity. And from my mom and dad, that's where it all started. Mom and dad, thank you for being here!" said the former beauty queen, who then walked outside the court's bar and hugged her mother who was in a wheelchair, crying.

In an interview with Saipan Tribune, King said it has been a more special day for her because her parents were able to make it to the ceremony.

"And I just want to thank them for making the effort to come out here," she said, referring to her parents who left Tinian just to attend the ceremony.

King also expressed her congratulations to the three other new Bar members.

"I think we all did very well. We'll do our best to uphold this profession," she said.

With respect to the Bar examination, King said she was sincerely anxious for the results.

"Although I took the Hawaiian and Guam Bars, the CNMI Bar has that added weight because it means so much to me. So it was more of an expectation. It was more worry whether I would pass or not and I am glad that I did," she said.

King said it was a very difficult exam. "Anyone who is going to take it should definitely study hard," she said.

King is an assistant public defender. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law.

IMC finally OK'd to visit premises

The Department of Public Health has given the Island Medical Center the go ahead to return to its premises for the sole purpose of making appropriate reimbursements to those who have been waiting for health clearances to earlier screening exams.

In a statement released by DPH's legal counsel Alexander Gorman, IMC is authorized by DPH to contact individuals and/or companies to reimburse them for physical examination fees administered by the clinic from September 2007 to March 2008 that were not issued.

IMC's sanitary permit is still under suspension and "neither

King was born and raised on Tinian. Her father is originally from Rota. Her mother is a Korean.

After graduating at Wellesley College, she went to law school at the University of Nebraska College of Law and graduated in May 2006.

King studied and passed the Hawaii and Guam Bar Examinations while taking care of her mother.

For Warfield, he said he never thought he'd be sworn in as an NMI Bar member.

Warfield said he and his wife and two children have been on Saipan for four years now.

He recalled that when they first arrived on the island he asked himself why they got here because at the time there was no power because of a typhoon.

Two months later, Warfield said, he asked the same question as another typhoon hit the island so there was no power and their apartment was flooded.

"Four years later, we're still here and taking the Bar exam. The community has reached out to us. We now feel part of the CNMI community. And I just want to thank you...to everyone who have embraced us," he said.

Warfield is chief prosecutor for the Attorney's General's Criminal Division. He is a graduate of Tulane Law School.

Hofman said he is pleased to be a member of the NMI Bar. He vowed to do his best as part of the Calvo and Clark law firm and as a member of the legal community in general.

"I'm very gratified to be a member here," said Hoffman, who is a member of Calvo and Clark law firm based in Guam.

Hofman is a graduate of Washington University School of Law.

For Huesman, the attorney admissions ceremony was a special moment for him.

"I love it here. I am just honored to be here," said Huesman, who is now working as an assistant attorney general assigned at the AGO's Civil Division.

Huesman used to be a law clerk for associate justice Alexandro Castro. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University School of Law.

IMC nor any of its doctors or medical staff are authorized to practice medicine in the clinic in Susupe until further notice."

The IMC in Susupe, operated by the Micronesian Health Corp., was closed down by the Department of Public Health due to alleged noncompliance with rules and regulations. The immediate suspension of the IMC started March 4, 2008.

The Department of Public Health Liaison Office located in the Department of Labor & Immigration in Afetnas Center may be contacted at 664-4821/2 to report any conduct inconsistent with this notice. *(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)*

IF LATE PAYMENTS CONTINUE

Daycares may reduce staff or face closure

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Daycares in the CNMI are now talking about closing down some of their branches or reducing their staff if they continue get their payments late.

CNMI Daycare Association president Masina Leuta wrote to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial stating that the governor is the daycares' only hope to help speed up the payment process in order

to avoid closing down or getting their utilities disconnected.

There are at least 16 daycare centers under the association, all of whom claim that they have yet to receive their checks for services provided for the month of March.

Daycares have an average of three childcare providers and an average utility bill of \$3,500 a month.

"We cannot afford to be receiving our checks late. We need to pay our staff and we need to pay

our utilities in order to keep our businesses running," Leuta said.

He recalled the governor saying in a Dec. 29 meeting with daycare providers, "For the payments, you will receive them as it was done by the PSS [Public School System]. Go take care of the children and I will take care of the money."

"We the daycare providers are requesting with great honor and respect that you [governor] please take time to look into this problem of why payments to the daycares are being too long to process," Leuta told the governor.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that the governor is relying on the Department of

Community and Cultural Affairs to "properly process all of the payments once all of the requirements have been met."

"It is our understanding, from DCCA, that payments are being properly processed, but some businesses may not have met all requirements and are therefore encountering delays," Reyes said.

In an earlier statement DCCA acting Secretary Melvin Faisao said that childcare providers are not receiving their payments if they are not meeting the deadline for submission or are not submitting required documents such as W-9 forms and other important documents such as the attendance log sheet for affected parents.

Also a "meticulous review" by department reviewer spotting errors on childcare providers submission might have contributed to the delay of payments.

Leuta said the CNMI Daycare Association is requesting a copy of the original state plan that the DCCA is said to be following. "We want to know if what they are requiring of us are really indicated in the state plan."

Reyes said that some businesses "may need to adapt to DCCA's strict enforcement."

"However, if businesses can clearly demonstrate deficiencies in DCCA processing, I invite them to write directly to the Governor stating their case and

the Governor can take up such specific concerns with DCCA, if warranted," he added.

Warfield says AGO is her home

BY **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety commissioner Rebecca Warfield said yesterday she is absolutely delighted to be back at the Attorney General's Office's Criminal Division.

"The AG's Office is my home," said Warfield in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* at the swearing in ceremony for four new NMI Bar passers, including her husband, chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr.

Warfield, who assumes her former post as assistant attorney general, said that working with her husband at AGO is always a pleasure because she respects him a lot and trusts his judgment.

At AGO's Criminal Division, she said she is committed to prosecuting sexual assault cases and protecting the victims.

With respect to Claudio Norita as the new DPS commissioner, Warfield said that Norita has made a lot of "terrific changes" in the department.

"He deserves an opportunity to lead the department and be supported while he is doing

that. It doesn't matter who the commissioner is, unless they get all the support from all the different communities and agencies," she said.

To the police officers who signed a petition for her removal from DPS, Warfield said those officers should not forget the people in the community.

"Keep us all safe. That's all I want is...for everybody to be safe," she emphasized.

Warfield clarified that she was not kicked out from DPS, but that she resigned. When asked why she did so, she responded: "I've been at DPS for 19 months." During that period, she and the department accomplished a lot of things together, she said.

"The crime rate was down," Warfield said, adding that, among other things, DPS survived a U.S. Department of Justice's inquiry.

Despite a limited budget, she said DPS managed to perform its job without compromising service to the community.

"I think they were tremendous accomplishments and it was a pleasure to serve," Warfield added.

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Election board lauded for NMD registry

The election board has earned praise for taking the initiative in registering voters of Northern Marianas descent in preparation for a future vote on the land tenure law.

The House of Representatives yesterday adopted a resolution commending the CNMI Board of Election for its diligence in establishing the NMI Descent Voter Registry.

The House members said the registry would be instrumental during a general election as far as determining who is eligible to vote on any proposed constitutional amendment to Article XII, which restricts land ownership to persons of Northern

Marianas descent.

The Commonwealth Election Commission started registering NMD voters in March 2008.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked the Election Commission to stop the registration, saying that limiting the vote on Article XII to NMD citizens is a violation of the U.S. Constitution. Fitial has said the registration is divisive and discriminatory.

But the commission has said it will continue to conduct the registration unless told by the courts or the Board of Election.

Several proposals to amend Article XII are pending in the Legislature.

One initiative, already passed

by the Senate, would extend the allowable leasehold interest for private lands in the Commonwealth from 55 years to 80 years. The initiative, sponsored by Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo, would also ease the requirements for corporations wishing to buy land in the Commonwealth. Under the initiative, a corporation would be able to own land with only 51 percent of its directors made up of people of Northern Marianas descent, and 51 percent of its stock owned by NMDs.

Another initiative, introduced by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, would extend the permissible term for private lands leases in the Commonwealth from 55 years to

75 years. It would also allow for existing leasehold agreements to be renegotiated for a new lease term of up to 75 years.

Under the Constitution, only voters of Northern Marianas descent may cast votes on a proposed amendment to the land alienation act.

A person is considered of Northern Marianas descent if he or she is a U.S. citizen or national and is of at least one-quarter CNMI Chamorro or Carolinian blood. An adopted child is also considered of Northern Marianas descent if he or she was adopted by a person of Northern Marianas descent while under 18 years old.

(Agnes E. Donato)



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BAR EXAMINATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examinations (MBE and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and Thursday, July 31, 2008. Interested applicants can obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary's website at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>, or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than May 30, 2008.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2008.

NORA V. BORJA
Bar Administrator
Supreme Court

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to May 8, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

- A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
 - B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
 - C. Public Hearings
 - No 2008-0670 Application by GPPC for a Conditional Use Permit for an existing nonconforming use on Lot 044 I 01 on As Perdido Rd. in As Lito that includes a contractor's office and heavy equipment storage.
 - No 2008-0815 NMI Request for variance from lot size, and side and rear yard requirements for construction of a Buddhist Temple, housing, dining facility, and parking on Lot 36 A 01 on Chalan Pale Arnold in Marpi.
 - D. Contested Cases, None
 - E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
 - No. 2008-0310 Conditional Use Application by UC Corp. for a beach concession.
 - No 2008-0670 Conditional Use Application by GPPC for contractor's office and heavy equipment storage.
 - No 2008-0815 NMI Buddhist Temple request for variance from lot size, and side and rear yard setback requirements.
 - F. Old Business
 - Establishment of adult business zoning districts. Review and finalize proposals and initiate public review.
 - G. New Business
 - Amendment of the Saipan Zoning Law and Maps. Discuss public response to the proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law. Approve changes to the Official Zoning Maps. Approval transmittal of approved text revisions to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.
 - Additional amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Maps. Review and initiate public review of additional changes to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Maps.
 - H. Public Comment
 - I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
 - J. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn
- For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing Buddhist Temple in Marpi

The public is invited to provide comments at a public hearing on Variance Application No. 2008-0815, by the NMI Buddhist Temple Association. The application is to reduce the lot size, and side and rear yard setback requirements for construction of a Buddhist Temple, housing units, dining facility, and parking on Lot 36 A 01 on Chalan Pale Arnold in Marpi.

Date: May 8, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor,
Joeten Building, DanDan

The Variance Application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 6:00 pm, May 8, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing GPPC Contractor's Office and Heavy Equipment Storage

The public is invited to provide comments at a public hearing on Application No. 2008-0670 by GPPC, Inc. The application is for issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for an existing nonconforming use on Lot 044 I 01 on As Perdido Rd. in As Lito. The proposed use includes a contractor's office and heavy equipment storage.

Date: May 8, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor,
Joeten Building, DanDan

The application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 6:00 pm, May 8, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 2, 2000

Gov't okays plan to settle CUC bills

The government has pledged to make a monthly payment of at least \$1.3 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to pare down over \$11 million it has owed in overdue utility bills for the past few months. Finance officials have reached the payment plan with CUC after the government-owned utility firm demanded settlement of the debt.

Administration spending dropped by \$35M

Living up to the expectations of its self-imposed cost-cutting measures since 1998, the Tenorio Administration managed to slash its spending for the last fiscal year by more than \$35 million, according to a report from the finance department. The DOF report, contained in the commerce department's economic review, disclosed the Commonwealth spent only \$220.3 million in Fiscal Year 1999, lower from the previous period's \$255.6 million.

NMIRF warns against approval of 5 House bills

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres has warned the House Judicial and Governmental Relations Committee to defer action on five proposed measures due to their potential impact on the agency's financial integrity. In a letter sent to Rep. Dino M. Jones, Mr. Torres said not one of the bills would help improve the Fund's current financial condition, but instead put further strain on its cash position at a time when government revenues are down.

MAY 2, 2001

Not enough nurses at CHC

At least nine retired nurses were called back to work yesterday by the Department of Public Health in efforts to alleviate problems associated with the shortage of nurses to man the hospital. Last month, the health department was forced to "borrow" nurses from the Rota and Tinian Public Health Centers to ease burdens of on-duty nurses working round-the-clock at the CHC.

Firm sued for illegal dismissal

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has lodged complaints against a local corporation in behalf of the latter's former employees whom it allegedly discharged for complaining against the company. Elm's Corporation, a company that does business as Town and Country Restaurant, is facing a civil action suit before the US District Court for allegedly performing unlawful employment practices against workers Gemma Soriano and Antonio Magtibay.

Road cleared for solid waste transfer station

Remaining obstacles for the construction of the sanitary landfill and transfer station were finally resolved after the last of the three environmental permits was approved yesterday. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan disclosed the Army Corps of Engineer 404 or Water Quality Permit was finally approved, which would allow the Department of Public Works to begin with the much-delayed landfill project in Marpi.

MAY 2, 2002

US court stops FDM bombing

A federal court issued an injunction ordering the immediate halting of all military activities on Farallon de Mendinilla Island that would harm its bird population. Judge Emmett G. Sullivan, sitting on the bench for the U.S. District Court of Columbia, issued the injunction on April 30 (Columbia time), effectively enforcing the declaration of illegality that it rendered against the military bombing exercises sometime last March.

Receiver hoped to pacify worried BoS depositors

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan ruled late Tuesday to appoint businessman and lawyer Randall Fennell as Bank of Saipan receiver for a period not exceeding 30 days. The judge's ruling came even as a question was left hanging on whether the court has "competent jurisdiction" to decide on the appointment of the said outside expert, due to the government's failure to cite a cause of action in its filed petition against BoS.

Dispute over 1.4 hectares of land is resolved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has issued a ruling that resolved the ownership issue of an additional 1.4 hectares of land on Saipan that a person purchased over 20 years ago.

In a written decision issued Tuesday, Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama determined that Annie DGL. Gillespie is the owner of the property in question.

Lizama said the deed that Gillespie received from Simion Camacho's children entitled her to the whole parcel because her claim of title is superior.

"Even if the metes and bounds are different in the documents, on the face of the two maps there is no difference and no testimony to contradict that Jose Camacho (decedent) intended to grant all of his land to [his son] Simion Camacho," the judge pointed out.

According to court documents, the case concerns a plot of land known as TD 702. In 1953, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands gave Jose Cama-

cho a determination of ownership for TD 702 land.

Jose Camacho held title to this land until 1973 when he deeded his interest in the property to his son, Simion Camacho.

In both the original determination of ownership as well as the deed of gift to Simion Camacho, the land was described as being 2.7 hectares, "more or less subject to survey."

A survey was done of the land in 1972 and approved in 1974 that determined that the size of the land was, in fact, 4.1 hectares. In the survey, the land was designated as Lot No. 008 B 08.

In 1980, Simion Camacho conveyed Lot No. 008 B 08 (containing 4.1 hectares) to his children in a deed of gift. In 1982, the CNMI canceled the original certificate of title in the name of Jose Camacho, and issued a new one in the names of Simion Camacho's children for the land.

In 1987, Simion Camacho's children transferred all their interest in the property to Gillespie.

Now plaintiff Francisco C. Camacho, as administrator of the estate of Jose Celis Camacho, is seeking to quiet title on the additional 1.4 hectares that was unaccounted for in the original description of the land. Plaintiff and the heirs of the estate, contested that the additional 1.4 hectares should go to the estate.

Gillespie, through counsel Stephen Nutting, believes her claim to the land is stronger and that the 1.4 hectares belongs to her.

In his decision, Lizama said when the parties allege title from a common source, as in this case Gillespie and the heirs allege title from Jose Camacho, then the court may render judgment as to

whose claim is superior.

To prove one's title is superior, Lizama said, each party must "prove his or her own claim to the property in question."

The heirs of the estate assert that when Jose Camacho deeded Simion Camacho T.D. 702, the total sum of land that was granted was the 2.7 hectares described in the determination of ownership document.

Plaintiffs, through counsel Brien S. Nicholas, contended that because Jose Camacho was aware that the size of the land was actually 4.1 hectares at the time he gave it to Simion Camacho, in using the T.D. 702 description to convey land to Simion he was specifically giving him only 2.7 hectares.

The plaintiffs asserted that had Jose Camacho wanted to grant Simion all 4.1 hectares of the property then he would have used different language evincing an intent to convey all 4.1 hectares of the land.

Because he did not, plaintiffs argue that the 1.4 excess hectares belong to the heirs of the estate rather than Gillespie.

Gillespie asserted that because there is no evidence of any intent to reserve the 1.4 hectares of property, then it is rightfully hers as she purchased and received Simion Camacho's children's interest which (according to the certificate of title) amounted to 4.1 hectares.

In his decision, Lizama said

plaintiff's claim must be denied for lack of sufficient evidence to prove superiority of title.

Lizama said T.D. 702 and Lot No. 008 B 08 are of the same property.

He said he cumulatively reviewed the maps presented at trial and must concluded that T.D. 702 and Lot. No. 008 B 08 are the same piece of property.

Lizama said that from the language used in the deed that Jose Camacho gave to Simion Camacho, the court believes Jose's intention as to convey all the property he believes was his.

"He [Jose Camacho] did not use any language of reservation to keep the property to himself," the judge noted.

Anti-cancer advocates to walk 60 miles for the cure

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Sweet Feet members are seeking the support of the community as they prepare to take part in a three-day walk that supports the cause to find a cure against breast cancer.

This coming September 12-14, Saipan Sweet Feet member Marian Aldan-Pierce, along with members of the group comprised of cancer survivors, will meet up with thousands of men and women in Seattle, Washington to walk 60 miles in the course of three days.

The Breast Cancer 3-Day is an event to help benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Eighty five percent of the net proceeds of this event will go to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

According to the Breast Cancer 3-Day website, "every advancement in breast cancer research, treatment, education and prevention in the last 25 years has been touched by a Komen for the Cure grant."

The remaining 15 percent of the net funds will go to the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund, which aims to provide ongoing support to breast cancer initiatives.

Aldan-Pierce said the Saipan Sweet Feet is composed of cancer survivors who have inspired others "to get involved and participate in this incredible journey."

Aldan-Pierce said she is seeking the help of the community to donate to the worthy cause.

"I've agreed to raise at least \$2,200 in donations; however,

I've set my personal goal at \$5,000. So I need your help," Aldan-Pierce said. "Any amount will help."

Aldan-Pierce said that over the years she has watched family members, employees, and friends succumb to cancer, that is why she is getting involved in this bold adventure.

"Thankfully, many of them have survived—including some of my closest friends. Walking 60 miles and raising \$5,000, or more I hope, is the least I can do," Aldan-Pierce said.

"Every dollar raised brings us closer to the cure. We all dream of the day when this disease is just a chapter in medical journals," she adds.

Breast cancer has already claimed the lives of at least eight women in the CNMI since 2001.

According to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, approximately 200,000 American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and 40,000 will die from the disease.

Aldan-Pierce said this that is the reason why she is willing to walk so far. "To do something bold about breast cancer. I hope that you'll share this incredible adventure with me—by supporting me in my fundraising efforts."

Donations can be made online at <http://www.The3Day.org> or over the phone at 1-800-996-3DAY(3329).

Other members of Saipan Sweet Feet include Pam Brown, Barbara Grizzard, Clarie Kosack, Rebecca Pierce, Rhoda Smith and Kazuyo Tojo.

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TOYOTA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Parting with the pastor

Last month, during a speech on race in Philadelphia, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., repudiated "in unequivocal terms" the explosive sound bites from his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., without denouncing him or repudiating their long relationship. In a confident address that discussed in an effective and intelligent way the impact of race on American life, Mr. Obama sought to put the rights and wrongs of the Rev. Wright into understandable historical context.

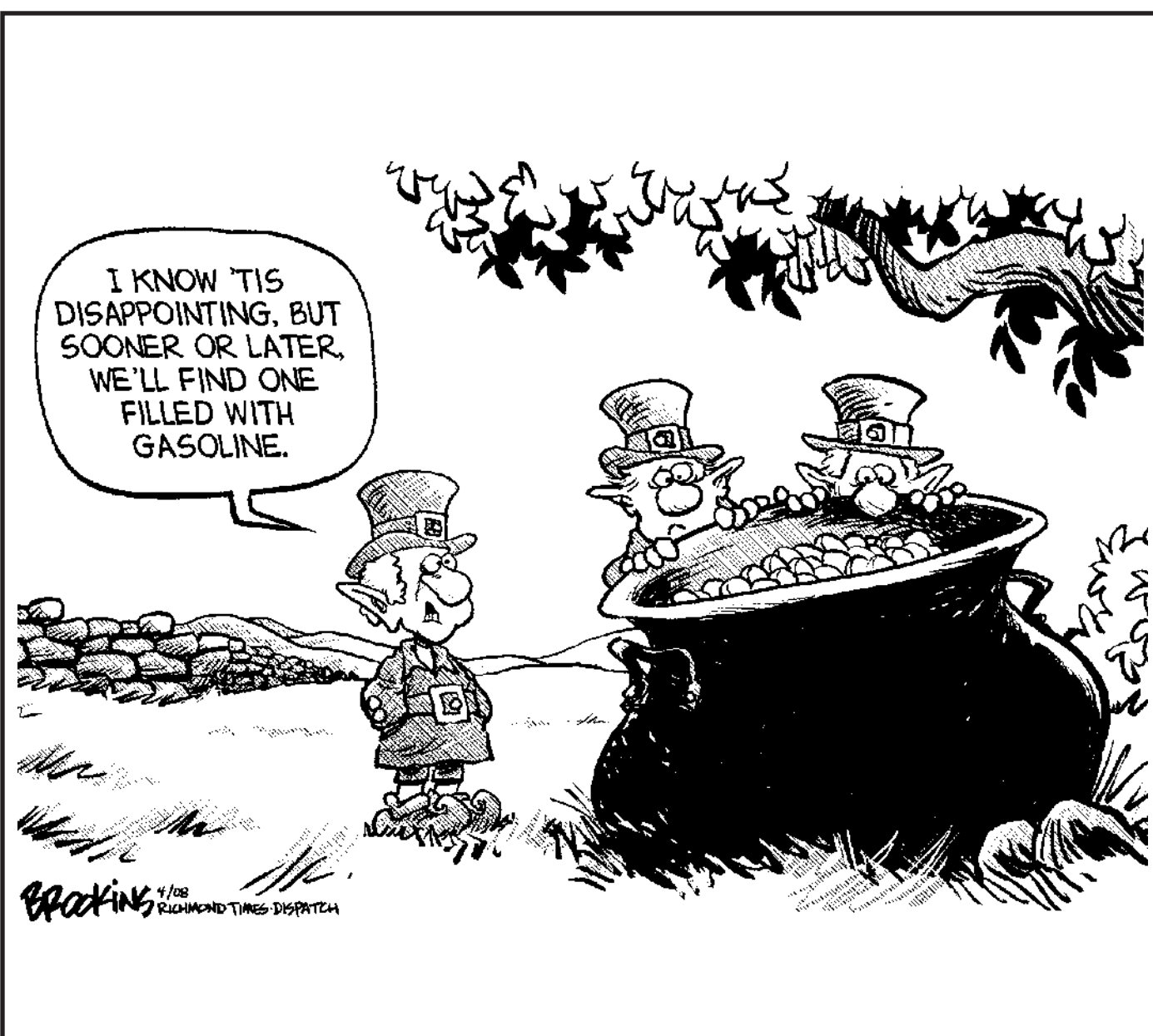
This week was a different story. A downbeat Mr. Obama announced at a hastily convened news conference in North Carolina: "The person I saw (Monday) was not the person that I met 20 years ago." Forcefully breaking from the Rev. Wright, Mr. Obama said: "The insensitivity and the outrageousness of the statements shocked me and surprised me." He added that they contradict "everything that I'm about and who I am."

We didn't join the renewed and growing chorus calling on Mr. Obama to renounce the Rev. Wright after the minister's all-about-me rant at the National Press Club on Monday, but the candidate's motivation is pretty obvious. The Rev. Wright praised Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, said it was plausible that AIDS was a genocidal tool of the U.S. government to kill African Americans and proclaimed that attacks on him were an attack on the black church. He also delivered a deliberate poke in the eye to his former parishioner, suggesting that Mr. Obama's conciliatory Philadelphia speech was nothing but politics. With each defiant utterance Monday, the Rev. Wright dug a deeper political hole for Mr. Obama.

Did Mr. Obama climb out of that hole this week? It seems to us that the whole sorry episode raises legitimate questions about his judgment. Given the long and close relationship between Mr. Obama and the Rev. Wright, voters will ask: How could Mr. Obama have been surprised by the Rev. Wright's views? How could he not have seen this coming? Mr. Obama didn't help matters much by initially seeming to dismiss the furor building over the Rev. Wright's Washington performance, just as he did with the initial uproar last month. At a media availability at an airport Monday afternoon, he displayed none of the anger and sorrow that etched his face in North Carolina one day later.

But Mr. Obama is right when he says that his entire career is antithetical to the divisiveness of the Rev. Wright's comments. We've found things to cheer and things to criticize about Mr. Obama during this long campaign, but we don't see how anyone could question his commitment to transcending old racial battles and finding common ground. The Rev. Wright doesn't speak for the candidate, and we hope the pastor doesn't become a continuing excuse for political ads built on racial fears.

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Spring cleaning for e-mail

When it comes to life-changing milestones, e-mail is hard to beat. I still remember the first one I ever sent; it was to Saipan from the U.S. mainland. I had hooked a 9600 baud modem up to a battered old DOS laptop computer. I was about as surprised as a person can be when I actually got a reply to my e-mail: "It works! It works!"

Maybe that's not as profound as Alexander Graham Bell's "Mr. Watson, come here, I need you," but, then again, maybe it is, given that phone calls between Saipan and the mainland were (as I recall) about a buck a minute back then.

After that first e-mail, I will confess I then sent out about a dozen frivolous e-mails to any address I could scrounge, just to enjoy getting a reply.

We all rode the e-mail bandwagon eventually. It was a free ride. It was a fun ride. Yes, it was—until it wasn't. Then it wasn't always fun, or necessarily free, as lost mail, spam, viruses, lost addresses, misdirected replies, and program crashes made "e-mail Hell" a common affliction.

So, where are we now? Well, for me, it's Spring Cleaning time for e-mail, as I purge old addresses, old correspondence, and as I review my tangled nest of domains and addresses. I hate this stuff, so I really have to force myself to pay attention to it.

Here are my three big thoughts on the subject.

1. It is worth it to get your own domain name (it costs about \$10 a year to register one) so you can tie down a permanent address in the cyber world. In other words, you, too, can be a dot-com, and base your e-mail addresses on your chosen and duly registered domain name. And even a simple, one-page web site for that domain gives you a way to post your contact information for the world to see, changeable at your whim. I have no idea why more people don't do this; it's the best bargain in communications.

2. In contrast to the above, if you don't get your own domain name, your e-mail address will essentially be owned by somebody else. That someone else could be an employer, or a web-based e-mail service (e.g. Yahoo or Google), or your Internet service provider. But if things change, well, you're out of luck. For example, many of us enjoyed our Hotmail addresses years ago, until Hotmail changed personalities, and many of us fled for other services; if all you had was a Hotmail address at the time, you were in bad shape.

3. Web-based email, such as Yahoo and Gmail, is, for many of us, more convenient to use than the old fashioned locally-kept mail,

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and at SaipanBlog.com.



such as Outlook. I don't know anything about Gmail. As for Yahoo, it's great e-mail, and if you have a domain name you can run your e-mail through a Yahoo account if you pay a fee (and I do just that).

However, not all web-based e-mail works well, or is even usable, so don't get fooled like I just did. I recently got a new cheapie host for a new domain, and I have discovered, to my horror, that their El Cheapo web mail service is utterly worthless.

I'm trying to use Outlook Express with that new domain to limp by for now, but it's been a hit-or-miss proposition, and I'm sure some vital piece of correspondence is going to slip through the cracks and further ruin my already pathetic life. Lesson learned: Don't try to save a few bucks on your e-mail service, the 3:30am headaches when you're trying to troubleshoot things in a panic just aren't worth it.

■ ■ ■

Many of us pretty much live online. We work, we get paid, we pay bills, we correspond, we invest, we shop, we bank, and we do research via the Internet. Yet, despite this trend, I know people who can't manage to even be functionally literate with e-mail and related stuff. I've talked to about a half-dozen recent college graduates who are looking for work, yet don't know what a domain name is, who can't understand why their e-mail doesn't work when they change ISPs, or who wonder why their dippy MySpace pages aren't appropriate points of career contact.

Meanwhile, on the happier side of things, I'm also reviewing a book to share with you that highlights the growing importance of the Internet in some interesting ways. It's a great book, and it will give us all something encouraging to think about in these lousy economic times. Stay tuned.

After all, Saipan, for all its economic woes, is still wired to the world, and this is a vital economic lifeline. Don't ignore it. Embrace it. After all, it works! It works!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Movies, power, federalization and Pew

Well, it's been a newsworthy couple of weeks. The closing of Hollywood Theaters has definitely put a damper on spirits, even for those who never went to the movies. Its presence made us feel like a part of the "civilized" world. I was in Guam earlier this week, and when people asked me "How are things on Saipan," the best way to sum it up was to say, "Our only movie theater just closed." People immediately understood, and shook their heads in disbelief. Yes, things are bad, and "consumer confidence" is dwindling.

People would ask me what I think needed to be done to improve things, and really, I don't think there is an easy solution. Certainly, we need a reliable utility. But we don't control the price of oil, and it's predicted to climb from its current level around \$100 a barrel, up to \$200 a barrel within the next year or two. Repairing the power plant can give us reliability, but it might not prevent the cost of power doubling. How can we cope with that? Alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power are simply not cost effective; however, they may become so as the price of oil rises.

Certainly another area that still needs improvement is government waste. We'd have more money available for various public services if waste wasn't present. And honestly, much of that waste is related to power. Anytime I visit a government office, I take a jacket with me, because I know I'm going to be cold. It's still beyond me why we don't just adjust the thermostats around here.

A couple of years ago at the energy symposium that was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, one of the presenters told the story of a utility in California that was meeting increasing demand for power and was faced with building a new power plant. They

analyzed the situation and realized that it would be more cost effective for them to hand out free energy saving light bulbs so that every home and business would convert to the compact fluorescent technology. It cost the utility money to give away the bulbs, but it saved them the expense of building a new plant. Just an idea that might help address a piece of our current problem. But honestly, there is no silver bullet.

Tourism is generally holding steady, but it's clear that with rising travel costs, we cannot expect to see a significant rise in the coming months. There are no new industries, and we're scratching our heads wondering how we can stimulate the economy, attract investors, create jobs. But we're not alone. I take some consolation that at least the entire globe is flirting with recession.

And of course there is federalization. Whether you were for it or against it, it's now a done deal, and though it's certain that it's going to happen, we don't know what its impact will be. There will be things that some of us like about it, and things that we dislike. It will require the passage of time to sort it all out.

A ray of hope that was on the horizon was the proposed "Sanctuary at Sea." Forget about all the arguments about more jobs, more tourists, and more federal money. Certainly those are beneficial outcomes. But for every good thing, someone else can give evidence of some possible bad outcome. Arguments at that level of "what can we get out of it" can go on forever. I felt that the monument was simply the opportunity, perhaps never to come our way again, for us to have the privilege of giving a gift to the world. The practicalities will work themselves out, if the desire is there. Let's set our gaze outward, and into the future, and think of this as a gift worth giving to humanity.

BETTER LIVING

By **DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute and the author of the book, World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram

"Why should I? Maybe there are diamonds there for me! Maybe there are fish there for me!" Maybe. Yet, maybe, we can rise above these "me" centered concerns and think of leaving a legacy. Maybe centuries from now, we will be remembered in human history for our foresight and generosity in preserving a piece of the planet that increasing population pressures will threaten. The "Monument at Sea" is an opportunity for us to leave a positive mark, to create a positive image. And for people that care about being respected, that's worth more than diamonds. It's an opportunity for us to live up to our heritage as people of the land, people of the sea, people of the planet for whom we'll serve as trustees. The monument is a small ray of hope that doesn't solve all the problems we face, but it is something that lifts the spirit. And I have a feeling that with the myriad challenges sure to mount, it will be our spirits that guide the way.

CARE: Change, Action, Reform, and Excellence

Brother and sisters of the Commonwealth, How many of you are contemplating leaving the CNMI? If you are like most families, including mine, the thoughts have at least crossed your minds. Perhaps some of you are packing right now and getting things in order as you read this letter. I am sure, like all families, that you do not want to leave your beloved home, but with a collapsed economy and a seemingly hopeless future, what choice do you have?

I promised myself a year ago that no matter how bad things got on Saipan, I would not abandon ship. If anything, I would have greater resolve to stay and fight the Old Boys Network that has besieged our islands for generations. But I realize that it is not about me anymore. I have a higher calling that I need to answer to, and it is called fatherhood. I can say with great certainty that the predominant reason why our people are fleeing the CNMI is because they want their children to have better opportunities in life. Before they boarded the plane, I'm certain parents wrestled with the decision to leave home, second-guessing and asking themselves if they were in fact doing the right thing. They shed tears and felt great pain and anguish as they embraced their family and friends and said good-bye one last time. As I write this, the question I continually ask myself is not if I will leave Saipan, but when.

But let me make it abundantly clear from this day forward. When I leave, I will leave on my terms, and in a blaze of glory. I will no longer tolerate political pundits who try to give me advice on how to work the system. It is that same mentality that has ruined our islands. I do not want to work the system—I want to cleanse it!

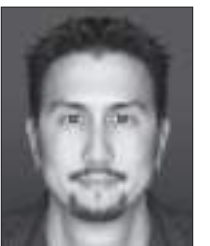
Let it be known that I am offended by elected leaders who em-

body the old adage, "Do as I say, not as I do." They ran with their promises for change and got elected and now sit at the round table, deciding the fate of our people. What are they doing today to make the CNMI a better place? What are they doing for our power crisis? What have they done since they were sworn into office? Have they come up with any viable solutions to our problems? Do they even have a plan? Have they included themselves when cutting the salaries of their constituents? Have they spoken out against the OBN, or have they become a part of it?

By the way, if any elected leader takes offense to my criticism of the OBN, it is because they represent the OBN! I have not identified them by name, because I need not to. Their actions and their old ways of doing things speak loud and clear, and come 2009, the voters will ask for a record of their accomplishments. If trying to ramrod a casino gambling initiative down our throats is the best they can do, I suggest they start looking for a new career.

For the record, I applaud Rep. Tina Sablan for her efforts to bring honesty and transparency to our government. Tina isn't perfect, and she has never claimed to be. There are times when I may disagree with her on some issues, but as God as my witness, I know she is an honest person who practices what she preaches. I will defend Tina's character because her heart and conscience has always been in the right place. She has consistently placed the needs of her people before her own, and she deserves praise for that. Tina's critics (and their team of ghostwriters) need to walk a mile in her moccasins before they try to assault her character and integrity. They need to understand that Tina represents every living person in the CNMI, citizen or non-citizen, relative or non-relative, friend or foe. Tina is

By **ED PROPST**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Ed Propst is the publisher of MP Magazine. Check out his blogs at <http://marianaspride.blogspot.com/>.

not in office to deliver tentos and tables, to give chenchuli, to award her relatives with jobs, or to misspend her discretionary fund. She is in office to bring much-needed change. If you don't agree with Tina on a particular issue, visit her and express your concerns. She has an open-door policy (but no secretary). You can also reach her by calling her cell phone, but don't talk too long, because she pays her cellular bill with her own money. For any person to push for her impeachment or claim she has committed "treason" is in dire need of counseling, spiritual guidance, a formal education, and according to Charles Reyes, a job. If that doesn't work, anti-depressants might help.

To our elected leaders, allow me to shed light on some important issues. Take it or leave it, my advice is free. More importantly, it is corruption-free! If you embrace the following, it may not solve all of our problems, but it may be a good place to start. If you disagree with them, then come up with better ones before dismissing them so quickly. Isn't that what real leadership is about? I humbly ask that

See CARE on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

A chance to be a steward of the ocean

I was disappointed by the headlines last week announcing the decision that the CNMI government would not endorse the proposed Marine National Monument at this time. There has been much excitement and debate over the last few weeks regarding the possibility that three northern islands could be candidate for a new Marine National Monument, similar to the recently created Papahānaumokuākea near Hawaii. Of course this is a complex issue, and there are many arguments about the "worth" or "need" or "benefit" or "cost" of these kind of protected monuments. Projects of this nature are never clear-cut because they involve so many issues;

fishing rights, indigenous rights, government control, wilderness designation, stewardship, environmentalism, economics, and politics. The "good" or "bad" of such a vast project can be spun from any side with the right set of data and eloquence. I leave that to the experts. I only wish to express that this is a wonderful opportunity, and to urge the government and the people to seriously consider the issue. Set a timeline, review the facts, survey the people, and then make the choice.

The ocean is our final frontier on Earth. It holds many secrets, new discoveries, and indeed, tremendous beauty. The proposed monument would be a legacy to our and future generations.

Through the creation of a Marine National Monument, the CNMI has the opportunity to help protect and manage a vanishing resource—a beautiful, relatively "virgin" area of the world that has not been influenced heavily by human activity. We do not realize how rare that is!! Projects such as these are not about economic benefits or rules and regulations—they transcend both capitalism and government. Behind the numbers and graphs lie the intangibles, the ideas, and the dreams of making the world a better place to live. There is no way to put value on protecting part of the Earth. Read the headlines—the environment is being polluted and used up—the

time to act is now. A National Marine Monument provides a sanctuary for replenishment and renewal. It would benefit and heal the local oceans of the CNMI as well as the world's, and that sounds like a very worthy cause. With some cooperation, sacrifice, foresight, and understanding, the CNMI has the opportunity to be a leading steward of the ocean, a seemingly rightful role for these islands tenuously anchored in 30,000 feet of blue water.

The following quote from, *The Roots of Heaven*, presented itself while I was writing. I have not read this book.

"...how can we talk of progress when we're destroying, all around us, life's most beautiful and noble manifestations? Our artists, architects, our scientists, our poets, sweat blood to make our life more beautiful, and at the same time we force our way into






the last forests left to us, with our finger on the trigger of an automatic weapon, and we poison the oceans and the very air we breathe with our devices... We've got to resist this degradation. Are we no longer capable of respecting nature, or defending a living beauty that has no earning power, no utility, no object except to let itself be seen from time to time?... It's absolutely essential that man should manage to preserve something other than what helps to make soles for shoes or machines, that he should leave a margin, a sanctuary, where some of life's beauty can take refuge and where he himself can feel safe from his own cleverness and folly. Only then will it be possible to begin talking of civilization."

Dr. Cooper Schraudenbach
Capital Hill, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly clear. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

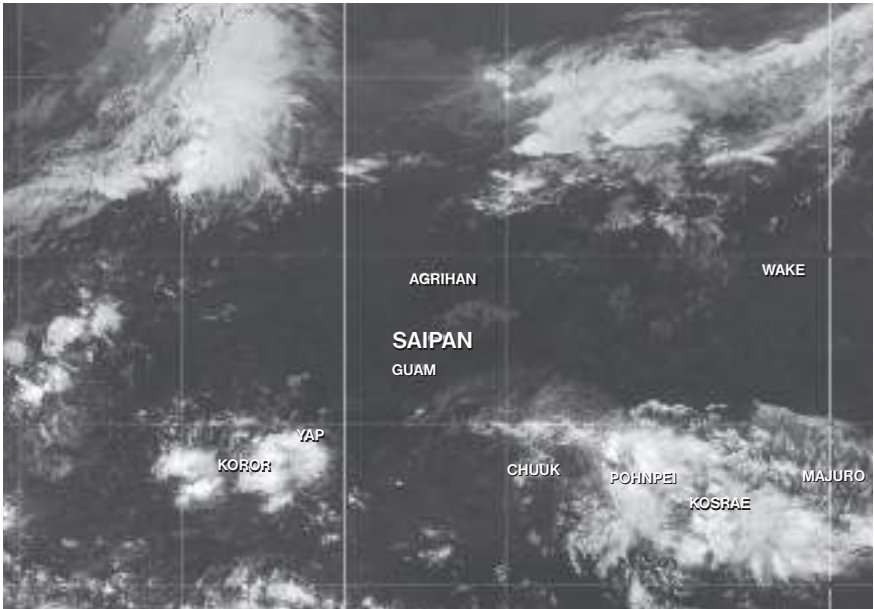
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲59 ▼50
Beijing	Cloudy	▲91 ▼63
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼75
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲79 ▼72
London	Showers	▲61 ▼46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79 ▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲61 ▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼71
New York	Showers	▲64 ▼51
Osaka	Rain	▲73 ▼59
Paris	Cloudy	▲63 ▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲80 ▼57
Rome	Sunny	▲76 ▼53
Salem	Showers	▲59 ▼45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65 ▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼48
Tokyo	Rain	▲68 ▼61
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲77 ▼60

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:56AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:27AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
5:18PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:19PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from a low centered near 26N147E to 25N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. A surface trough runs northeastward from 23N154E to 25N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring north of 23N from 153E to 158E. This area covers Minami Torishima. Divergence aloft is combining with convergent low-level winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 6N138E to 9N133E. Upper-level divergence is coupling with convergent trade-winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 150E to 160E and within 150 miles of a line from 8N160E to 2N170E. This area includes Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53AM	6:35PM
Saturday	5:53AM	6:35PM
Sunday	5:52AM	6:35PM
Monday	5:52AM	6:36PM
Tuesday	5:52AM	6:36PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:58AM	3:19PM
Saturday	3:38AM	4:16PM
Sunday	4:21AM	5:16PM
Monday	5:08AM	6:20PM
Tuesday	6:01AM	7:28PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

CARE

From Page 11

you read and consider the following 10 steps of CARE:

CARE - Change, Action, Reform, and Excellence

1. No more house bills for the next six months. As a senator of the Roman Empire once stated, "The more corrupt the state, the more laws." There are more bills being created by our 16th Legislature than there are gambling addicts in a poker parlor on a payday weekend. Please stop passing bills for six months and spend that time figuring out how many public laws are currently inactive or are not being enforced. I am sure you will find hundreds! What? It's not your job? Then make it your job! Don't pass the buck anymore. Take initiative and *just do it!* When you find that a particular agency is not enforcing a public law, come down on them with full force by holding oversight hearings!

2. Turn off your air conditioners. Do you know why private businesses like mine are paying 41 cents per kilowatt hour, while most places in the United States are paying less than half that? A large part of it has to do with our government's failure to *conserve!* It is a slap in the face to every business paying exorbitant power rates when government agencies have their air cons cranked so high that employees are wearing sweaters, not to mention the culturally offensive long-sleeved shirts and ties. My God, are you trying to make it snow in your office? Effective immediately, turn the thermostat to 78 degrees and wear cool, comfortable clothing to work. Better yet, insulate all government buildings' roofs, put in fans, and turn the air conditioners completely off! Do you know how much savings we could realize by doing this?

3. No air conditioning for our prison and our schools. Yes, I sound crazy. No air conditioning for our prisoners is one thing, but no air conditioning for our children? *Am I nuts?* Parents, do you remember when we went to school back in the day? How many air-conditioned classrooms did we have? I can only remember two. I also remember sitting in Mr. Kenney's geometry class at MHS right after P.E., sweating but nonetheless trying to make sense of the Pythagorean theorem. For God's sake, we are islanders! We should sweat! It is healthy! If our heroic soldiers serving in Iraq can brave 130 degree heat while wearing full battle gear, can't we make a sacrifice by shutting off the air conditioners? Getting back to the prisoners, why should prison be a walk in the park? If you go to prison, it means you did something bad. You are not entitled to air conditioning. If I had my way, I would put another prison on Goat Island and give our worst offenders (rapists, child molest-

ers, murderers, drug dealers, and crooked government officials) a pocket knife and a box of matches and let them fend for themselves. Yes, I am cruel. But I promise you this. You will see a downturn in criminal activity immediately because *finally* the punishment will fit the crime! We will receive worldwide attention, and we will send a clear message that if you want to commit a crime in the CNMI, be prepared to suffer the consequences. Radical deterrents are a necessity with the rise in criminal activity brought on by our collapsed economy.

4. Purchase hybrid vehicles and mopeds only! With the realization that oil will soon be \$200 a barrel, we cannot afford to supply fuel to our government vehicles operating on V-6, V-8, and V-12 engines. If we must purchase new cars, buy hybrid cars only and assign a moped for every government agency! For all essential government errands our runners must take (such as going to the bank or picking up *pugua* and cigarettes for their officemates), leave the car behind and take the moped. Not only will you save taxpayers' money and precious fuel, but you will have a fun time buzzing around

Saipan like a tourist! Just don't forget the helmet!

5. Massive Power Conservation Campaign NOW! In spite of the skyrocketing prices on oil, how is it possible that our leaders have not worked with the Fitial administration in launching a CNMI-wide power conservation campaign? A campaign that reaches out to every business and government agency. One that does more than just offer up posters, billboards, and commercials, but provides attractive incentives and tax breaks for energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances. If that has happened already, it was so weak and watered down that 90 percent of our population wasn't aware of it. Conservation needs to be taught at homes, in schools, in churches, and every place we congregate. It needs to happen NOW!

6. Volunteer a 10 percent reduction in salary AND discretionary fund IMMEDIATELY. I praise Rep. Ralph Torres for calling for a 10 percent reduction in salaries for all elected leaders. While his bill will not take effect until the 17th Legislature is installed, he is still willing to volunteer a 10 percent cut in his salary in the meantime.

However, Ralph points out that he wants to donate that 10 percent to whatever agency he sees fit instead of throwing it into the general funds. That should apply to all of our elected leaders. If you volunteer a 10 percent pay cut, then you should have the ability to choose where that money goes, just like ETCs, or educational tax credits. More important than the actual savings, this 10 percent voluntary pay cut will show your constituents that you will share in the burden of salary reductions, and that you are not above the law. It is, after all, the right thing to do. Judges, what sayeth you? Our judges make almost five times the salary of our public school teachers, but are they five times more valuable than the average teacher? Do they work five times as hard? Yes, I heard a judge try to justify his salary because he sometimes gets woken up in the middle of the night. Hey Judge, did you know that most teachers are up grading their students' papers in the middle of the night? Give me a break already. Go back to being an attorney if you think a 10 percent pay cut is unfair for you. We can find other judges who will place public service

above personal salaries!

7. Alternative energy NOW! Dr. Tom Arkle has written extensively about nuclear power and it has been dismissed and ignored by our leaders, even though it has proven to be safe and cost-effective (under 10 cents per kilowatt hour). If you don't want nuclear power, then we need to explore other alternative energy methods immediately. Please don't waste money on hiring high-priced energy consultants, and please do not entertain geothermal energy. That makes about as much sense as a solar-powered flashlight that will only run under direct sunlight. Fuel is expensive and will double within the next two years. We need to be able to utilize today's technology and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

8. Cease clamoring about federalization already! Can you imagine if all of our elected leaders put the same time and energy into CUC as they did into their wasteful attempts at thwarting federalization of minimum wage and of immigration and labor? We got bigger fish to fry! The problem with government leaders who don't know jack about running a busi-

ness is that they do not realize the real enemy is not *federalization!* The real enemy is the practice of forcing businesses to pay outrageous utility rates in order to subsidize our government agencies' failure to pay their utilities and CUC's failure to require corporate buddies to pay their power bills on time (even allowing them to work in a payment plan, which puts CUC millions of dollars in arrears). If the CNMI had worked with the United States from the very beginning in implementing federalization, we would be in a much better state today. Stop crying over spilled milk already. You can pout, you can cry, you can shout, but federalization is still going to take place. Stop your incessant whining about the federal government! They are not the enemy. The real enemy resides within.

9. Rescind your resolution against the proposed national marine park. I am dumbfounded at how our leaders could so quickly and recklessly come up with a resolution that slams the idea of a national marine monument for the CNMI. What I want to know is if it is really true that the resolution was writ-

See CARE on Page 14



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Versa S	#7L398849	White	\$15,990.00	Sportage	#77354358	Jade	\$17,695.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	\$26,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	\$18,995.00

FORD				HONDA			
	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE		STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	\$16,990.00	Fit	#7S031086	Silver	\$14,995.00
Fusion	#7R114053	White	\$19,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S031103	White	\$16,495.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	\$19,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	\$16,995.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	\$21,990.00	Ridgeline	#6H566625	Silver	\$29,990.00



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Letters to the Editor

Support for marine monument

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association is composed of 11 companies that are duly licensed insurance carriers, brokers, agents and adjusters in the CNMI.

This past April 24, we invited Mr. Angelo Villagomez to present to our Association some information on the proposed "National Park of the Sea" or "Marine Monument" as

some people are calling it. We were able to ask Mr. Villagomez questions about the proposal from Pew and he was able to answer our questions to our satisfaction.

While as insurance people our main objective is ensure that the public and its property are protected against unforeseen accidents, as members of the community we feel that it is also our

responsibility to ensure that our islands and their resources are protected for future generations to come. It is for that reason that our Association fully support the establishment of the "National Park of the Sea."

Eli Bueneventura
President, Northern Marianas Insurance Association

A rush to judgment?

Department of Public Safety's rush to judgment in its pronouncement of guilt in the recent lower Dandan fatal traffic accident leaves me to question whether a thorough investigation was carried out. What bothers me most is the fact that the accident occurred in the middle of a village, an area of every community on the island, where children frequently roam on a daily basis. It is an area where I believed every driver knows to take extra precaution to stay alert and be on the lookout for children. Faulting the child solely by a strict adherence to the laws of CNMI is, in my mind, a scapegoat and a flat out excuse not to do a complete and thorough investigation. If speeding was truly ruled out and extra precaution was exercised then why did the accident occur, especially in the middle of a village where speed limit should be kept to a maximum of five miles per hour?

I am troubled by the extent of the injuries sustained by the child because even without a proper formal professional investigative training I can easily tell that the seriousness of the victim's injuries was the cause of a speeding motor vehicle. Obviously, it appears that DPS did not look into other factors such as driving, medication, and cell phone records of the driver of the vehicle that tragically claimed the life of the young victim. Its apparent prompt judgment convinces me that those records were never a part of their investigative plans.

The secondary road (Holiday Street) from the main road does not have speed bumps, but that should never be an excuse for any vehicle to drive at a higher speed especially when the stretch of the road is only about 500 feet from the main road. Given that short distance, I am not sure it requires

any speed bump at all.

DPS owes to the parents, friends and relatives, and the community of lower Dandan as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands a complete and thorough investigation. I pray and hope that contrary to reports in the local media that the department had reached its conclusive findings, DPS continues to maintain an open investigation and will eventually get to the bottom of this tragedy. If safety of our children is the paramount concern of every one of us, perhaps the CNMI Legislature should consider rewriting the laws to ensure that drivers of moving vehicles on village roads do not get away with recklessness and negligence.

Jayson Flores
Dandan, Saipan

Our deepest gratitude

Our niece recently ran for Kagman Elementary School's 2008 Mr. and Ms. Blue Marlin Royal Court in celebration of "Cultural Day." As a result of the many sacrifices that people made, she was able to successfully help her school raise additional funds. In these times of tribulation, it is becoming increasingly difficult for many of our residents to sacrifice their hard earned dollars for worthy causes such as this and we must duly thank them for doing so. On behalf of Royal Princess Asiah Karmille Atalig Ogo and the entire family we offer a great deal of gratitude to all our generous donors. We cannot thank all of you enough for your unselfish act of kindness and hope that by doing so you are rewarded with prosperity.

As a consolation for tickets bought by our donors, we provided an incentive for those purchasing in bulk by having a mini raffle of our own, offering a cell phone as the winning prize. As such, we would like to congratulate Pauline Mendiola, the individual with winning ticket no. 341041. You may contact us at toll free no. 1-888-289-6777 to claim your prize. Congratulations *yan un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase!*

Mr. & Mrs. Ross S. Manglona and family
via e-mail

Clarification

On behalf of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, please correct your Sunday, April 13, 2008, article "Wespac to take up Pacific fishery issues-again," which says "The Council needs to meet again as all the actions taken during the last meeting on Saipan and in Guam last month were invalidated due to a failure to post the meeting with the Federal Register" This statement implies that the failure was on the part of the Council. However, the Council followed the usual process of forwarding notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service for posting with the Federal Register but NMFS failed on its part to process the notice on a timely manner. A letter from NMFS acknowledging its mistake can be forwarded to you if you need proof. Moreover, not all the actions were invalidated. The votes pertaining to regulatory actions were revisited at the 141st meeting to ensure that the public had notice through the Federal Register. The Council meeting had also been advertised in publications, through direct mailings, in press releases and other venues.

Sylvia Spalding
Honolulu, HI

CARE

From Page 13

ten by a Wespac lobbyist. Do you truly understand the ramifications of your resolution? Have you exhausted all efforts in understanding the pros and cons of the marine monument? Since when was conservation a

bad thing? Why do you buy into propaganda and sensationalism? As far as our local fishermen are concerned, how many of our local fishermen travel three hundred-plus miles to go fishing? It is not economically feasible, especially given the high cost of fuel! (Maybe the legislators figure the fishermen will swim up and back.) Do you know who is

fishing those waters right now? Illegal commercial fishing companies from Korea and Taiwan! And as we speak, the CNMI cannot do anything about it right now! Stop listening to lies and start listening to the voice of reason. I ask that you revisit your resolution and rescind it. There is nothing wrong with changing your mind if it means

you are changing your mind for the right reasons.

10. Privatize CUC. I have said it time and time again; the government should not be in the business of running our utilities. If we want efficiency and less government interference, then we have to privatize it. But let us proceed with caution, and let us be sure to ask OPA to assist.

I trust OPA's Mike Sablan will raise any red flags if the OBN tries to get involved. And for the record, any greasy, sleazy, scummy, slithering Old Boy who tries to tamper and interfere with the bidding process and tries to award it to his *primo*, business associate, or old buddy should be the first to try our prison on Goat Island. (Or maybe Uracas


now that the Legislature has ensured it will not be used as part of a national marine park. And maybe prisoners could be required to swim up there as part of their prison sentence—like the fishermen.) Only this time, don't give him a box of matches or a pocket knife. Let him rot on the island for his sins of corruption and his sins against his own people. A thousand curses to any evil scum-sucking individual who tries to interfere with the eventual privatization of CUC!

While I have listed only 10 actions, I could have easily have listed a hundred. I am calling for a revolution to take place. A revolution of minds! My brothers and sisters, we can no longer ask for responsible leadership. We must *demand* it! The time has come for us to liberate ourselves from greed, nepotism, small-mindedness, poor planning, and incompetence. Let us join hands, put aside petty differences, and focus on making our islands a better place for us all. A new Commonwealth begins with you!

I conclude with a powerful quote from our greatest U.S. President, Abraham Lincoln, one that best describes my sentiment: "Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up, and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable—a most sacred right—a right, which we hope and believe, is to liberate the world."

May God bless the CNMI!

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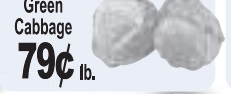
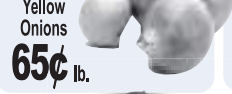
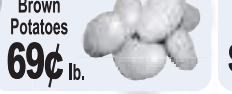


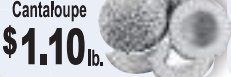
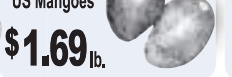

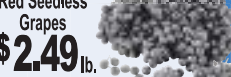
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Look for these and more great savings throughout our store!

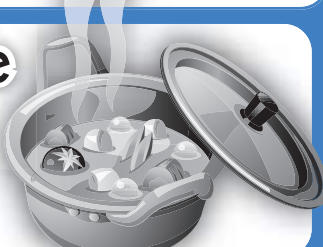
 Gala Apples \$1.39 lb.	 Green Cabbage 79¢ lb.	 Yellow Onions 65¢ lb.	 Brown Potatoes 69¢ lb.	 Bosc Pears \$1.35 lb.
 Fuji Apples \$1.39 lb.	 Cantaloupe \$1.10 lb.	 US Mangoes \$1.69 lb.	 Honey Dew \$1.29 lb.	 Red Seedless Grapes \$2.49 lb.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

Aiko's
SNACK BAR

Accepts Phone Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!



LOW LOW PRICE

Supermarket

 Special Value Fruit Cocktail 29 oz. \$1.69	 Western Family Mandarin Orange 11oz. 69¢
 New Zealand Boneless Beef Clod \$1.99 /lb.	 New Zealand Beef For Stew Family Bag 7lb. \$14.99
 Who's Chicken Fryers 13 lb./case \$34.99 /cs.	 Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case \$16.99 /cs.
 US Pork Spareribs 20lb./case \$14.99 /cs.	 Beef Spareribs 20lb./case \$15.99 /cs.
 Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb. \$1.79 /ea.	 Springfield Coffee Creamer 35.3oz. \$2.99 /ea.
 Western Family ALL Purpose Flour 5lb. \$2.79 /ea.	
 ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz. 95¢ /ea.	 Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll \$1.99 /ea.
 Zee Napkins 120 ct. \$2.25 /ea.	
 Western Family Ultra Regular Bleach 96oz. \$3.59 /ea.	 Bud Family Beer Can 12pk. \$23.99 /cs. \$11.99 /12pk.
 Miller Family Beer Can 12pk. \$23.99 /cs. \$11.99 /12pk.	

Come for more selections!

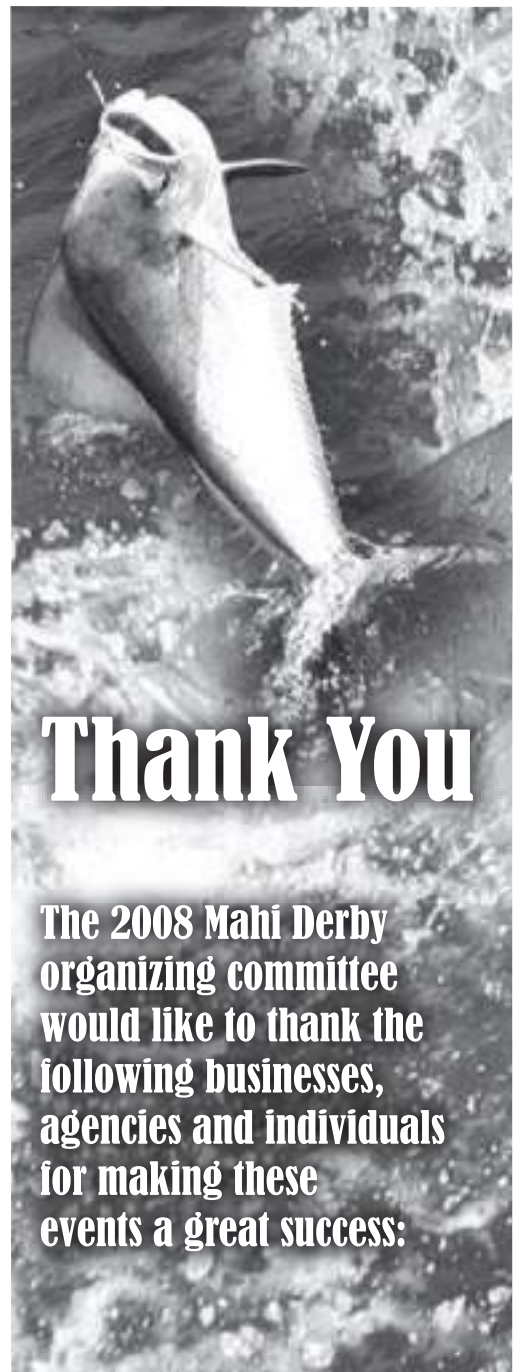


Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Thank you for shopping at all Joeten Stores: Joeten Shopping Center Susupe, Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Dandan Shopping Center and Big Bargain Chalan Piao

We accept major credit cards - We welcome Foodstamps - We reserve the right to limit quantities We are not responsible for any typo errors



Thank You

The 2008 Mahi Derby organizing committee would like to thank the following businesses, agencies and individuals for making these events a great success:



2008 Mahi Derby Sponsors

- ◆ Pacific Trading Company
- ◆ Shell Marianas
- ◆ Saipan Cell
- ◆ T&I Get Covered
- ◆ Fishing Tackle
- ◆ Micronesian Marine
- ◆ J&G Sablan
- ◆ Crime Stoppers
- ◆ Division of Fish & Wildlife
- ◆ Department of Lands & Natural Resources
- ◆ Lt. Governor
- ◆ EMO
- ◆ DPS Boating Safety
- ◆ MVA
- ◆ Senate President Pete Reyes
- ◆ Rep. Diego Benavente
- ◆ Rep. Ed Salas
- ◆ Rep. Frank Dela Cruz

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Republican Party meeting today

This is to inform all members of the NMI Republican Party that there will be a general membership meeting today, May 2, at 6pm at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse. Topics on the evening's agenda include the election of new officers to the board of directors as well as to adopt minutes of recent meetings including the minutes of the NMI Republican Party Convention. For more information, contact party 1st vice president Ana Teregeyo at 287-5658. (GOP)

Informational forum on federalization

The Dekada Movement, MOV-ER, Bicol Association, Unity Core Group, and the United Filipino Organization invite all guest workers and interested members of the public to attend a general meeting and informational forum on Saturday, May 3, 2008, at 5pm, at the Bicol Pavilion across from Marianas High School on Kili Beach.

Dekada Movement counsel Stephen C. Woodruff will speak on "Federalization and Long-Term Resident Status: What Does It Mean and Where Do We Go From Here?" An invitation to speak has also been extended to Rep. Tina Sablan.

Opportunity for questions, answers, and general discussion will be provided. (PR)

they can to help support the fight against cancer. All funds raised go toward the battle against cancer. Help show your support for this worthy cause.

The 2008 MMAC will be held on May 16-17 from 6pm-6am at the Hopwood Junior High School Track & Field in Chalan Piao. The entire community is invited to the all-night event where food, drinks, live entertainment, raffle prizes and cancer statistics will be available.

For more information contact any Committee member or email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisa Concepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. (MMAC)

Benito Clan reunion

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano "Benito Clan" that the actual date of the reunion that was previously scheduled for July 18-19, 2008, has been pushed forward to July 11-12, 2008.

The next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the residence of Jose M. and Merced T. Taitano in Tanapag, at 6pm. Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

MHS Class of '88 meeting set

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2008, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School, at 6:30pm.

All classmates are also being reminded that the deadline to submit their dues is May 15, 2008. Your attendance at this meeting is very important. We are encouraging each and everyone of you to please come. For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689.

MMAC coin drive fundraisers

The Marianas March Against Cancer's Teams Grace Christian, Bodig and Bank of Guam/Garapan Elementary School will be holding separate Coin Drive Fundraising Events.

Team Grace Christian will hold its coin drive today, May 2, at 5:30pm, at the Navy Hill/CHC traffic light intersection.

Team Bodig will also hold its coin drive today, May 2, at 3:30pm, at the Microl Toyota intersection in San Jose.

Team Bank of Guam/Garapan Elementary School will hold its coin drive next Friday, May 9, at the Bank of Guam/DFS Galleria traffic light intersection in Garapan.

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee and the three teams invite the public to drive by and donate whatever

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training exercise on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla until May 3, from 7am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

Should you have any questions, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

May Chamber meeting set

The May general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be held at Fiesta Resort on Wednesday, May 7. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am and the meeting will begin at noon. This month's speaker will be Tony Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., who is expected to update members with regard to CUC's short- and long-term plans. As usual, meeting fees

are \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. (PR)

Deadline to buy luminaries

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is reminding all team captains and the public that the deadline to submit luminary forms is next Monday, May 5, 2008. If you or anyone you know is interested in purchasing a luminary for only \$5 to remember those who have lost the battle against cancer or to honor someone who has survived or is currently suffering from cancer, email Kim A. Concepcion at kimconcepcion@yahoo.com or Francella O. Iginoef at franzzy_7@hotmail.com. You may also contact any 2008 MMAC Committee member or visit www.ccamarianas.org for more information. Show your support in the fight against one of the leading causes of death in the CNMI and the world. All funds raised go toward the battle against cancer. (PR)

DEQ Cleanup Brigade activity

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash from Old Man by the Sea.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then if continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. The last time brigade volunteers cleaned Old Man by the Sea was in May 2005.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Guest Workers Coalition to elect officers

The core group of the Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI) is inviting all interested parties to attend a meeting on May 2, 2008, 6:30pm at Oleai Pavilion (near Oleai Beach Bar). The main agenda are election of the first set of officers and finalization of plans for general assembly on May 4, 2008.

For questions, email at irenebedi@yahoo.com.

Enrollment starts at Sr. Remedios school

Enrollment is now ongoing at the Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center.

Regular School Day - 7:30 to 11:30am

Full Day Program - 7:30am to 5pm

For more information, call 234-6247



The CNMI Head Start Program is pleased to announce Open Registration for School year 2008-2009

REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Only parents or legal guardians are authorized to register their child(ren).

- ❑ Child(ren) birth certificate.
- ❑ Head Start Program Forms 3, 4 & 5 (copies can be obtained at the Head Start Office)
- ❑ Social Security Card
- ❑ School Health Entrance Certificate and medical insurance (if any).
- ❑ Parent's/Guardian's verification of income (2 of your most current check stubs or other public assistance, such as Medicaid, WIC or Nutrition Assistance).
- ❑ Passport/Visa/Immigration Permit (for non-residents)
- ❑ Legal Guardians must provide notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of child(ren).
- ❑ **Parents of children with disabilities are required to bring their child(ren) current IEP or IFSP.**

Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a Federally Funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria's. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls between the ages of 3-5 years old.

Children cannot be accepted into the program prior to their 3rd birthday.

For more information:

Please visit office at any Head Start Center near you
#1256 Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan

664-3751 or 323-7446



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2008

May 3, 2008 PROGRAM

6:00 p.m.	Nicollette Lopez National Anthem
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	A-Track
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Inatuas Cultural Dancers
8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Penina Ole Vasa
9:00 p.m. - 10:00p.m.	Te Ivi Maori

2008 Taste of the Marianas vendors:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Aqua Resort Club, Saipan | 10. D'Elegance Café |
| 2. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan | 11. Herman's Modern Bakery |
| 3. Hafadai Beach Hotel | 12. Hula Girl |
| 4. Hyatt Regency Saipan | 13. Thai House Restaurant |
| 5. Pacific Islands Club Saipan | 14. Poon's Restaurant |
| 6. Palms Resort Saipan | 15. Ty & Tia |
| 7. Saipan World Resort | 16. Pacific Trading Company |
| 8. Mariana Resort & Spa | 17. MARPAC |
| 9. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's | 18. Northern Marianas Bartender Association |

For more information, please contact
MVA Office (Saipan) at 664-3200/01, MVA Office (Tinian) at 433-9365.

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

TOURISM MONTH ACTIVITIES

SAIPAN

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2008

Taste Of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden - Event will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6:00pm to 10:00pm.

"Hafa Adai Tirow Way Fridays"

Every Friday, the community is encouraged to wear local attire. The community is encouraged to showcase our unique island culture by wearing mwar mwar or local beads.

May 31, 2008

Tourism Month "Ayuda" Charity Mountain Bike Race

The Ayuda Mountain Bike race will consist of a short course for children 8-12 years of age, short mountain bike race for beginners, and Open Division. Starting point will be at American Memorial Park to Mt. Tapochao and back.

For more information, please contact the MVA office at 664-3200/01 and ask for Ed Diaz.

Radio Trivia Program "Did you know and Fun Facts about Tourism in the CNMI"

Awareness on facts about tourism in the CNMI will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 and 97.9 The KAT. Listeners will have a chance to answer tourism question and will have a chance to win prizes.

TINIAN

May 16, 2008

Youth Fam Tour

Student groups will participate on an informative island tour to the major historical and cultural sites. This gives MVA an opportunity to inform them of the importance of protecting and preserving these public sites and facilities.

May 17, 2008

Island Green Revolution

A beautification activity where youth organizations perform major clean-up of potential tourist sites. Tourist groups on island will also be invited to participate by planting ornamentals or coconut trees alongside sites.



Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofsinan I Gubietno Dipåttamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PLANON MA-ATKILAN TANO PUBLIKO

Segun i tineteka na patte gi Lai Publiko 15-2, i Depattamenton Tano ha publrika planon para uma-atkila tano publiko guine giya Notte Marianas. Todo membron publikon iya Marianas libre man-nahalom opinion pot este na plano `sino otro hinasso pot priniponen atkilon maseñala para uma-atkila na tano publiko.

I mapropone na atkilon ma-deskribe komo Lot No. 002 E 03 `nai guaha 4,619 metro kuatdrao; Lot No. 002 E 04, i dinañkuloña 4,622 metro kuatdrao; yan, Lot No. 012 E 03, dinañkuloña 3,060 metro kuatdrao, poko mas o`menos. I mapan este na tano publiko gaige gi Depattamenton Tano.

I aplikante i kompanian Huang Zheng Corporation, Ltd., un` kompania guine giya Marianas. A presidenten este na kompania si Señor Quan Huang. Si Mr. Huang kontratistan este na atkilon ya inasiste as Señor Tony Reyes.

Si Mr. Huang para u usa i lugat para bisnis lulog, alumimum, yan papet katton, lugat para materiat siha (warehouse), manbenden materiat para mahatsan guma, bisnis produkton tase yan man-pepan boti.

I tetminon atkilon para bente siñko (25) años ya siña marinueba para kinse (15) años mas na tiempo. I atkilon siempre uma-detetmina akuantu pot sientu kada sakan segun i maprepara na ripot balin este siha na tano. I mapropopone na kontratan atkilon siña in` rikonose gi maseha mano na ofsinan Depattamenton Tano entalo Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. I Depattamenton Tano trabiha ti man-resisibe otro planon uson este siha na tano publiko.

I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano listo para u resibe opiñion publiko pot uson este siha na tano antes de Mayu 14, 2008.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow amataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyeghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoor, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i.

Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 002 E 03, eyoor faawu sangaras olabwughuw seigh me tiwoow llapal (4,619 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 002 E 04, eyoor faawu sangaras olabwughuw reweigh me ruwoow llapal (4,622 square meters) elapelo me ngare eghus me Lot No. 012 E 03, eyoor eluuw sangaras oleigh llapal (3,060 square meters), elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii.

Schóól akkilon nge Huang Zheng Corporation., CNMI corporation LTD. Mr. Quang Huang nge ii schagh Samwoolul (President) corporation yeel.

Schéschéél samwoolul corporation yeel nge Quan Huang.
- iii.

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Quan Huang fengal me alillisil Mr. Tony A. Reyes.
- iv.

Schóól akkilon ebwe ayoor bwuley reel recycling, sookko, wiisal tenda matiriyóód, retail/wholesale reel mwungol leeset, me ammwelil bwoot.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Meel akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).
- v.

Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon óubwe bwughil mellol bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúliyól.
- iv.

Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo bwal eew pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..
- v.

Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Ghuuw (May) 14, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngare Tchúliyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i.

The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 002 E 03, containing an area of approximately 4,619 square meters, more or less, Lot No. 002 E 04, containing an area of approximately 4,622 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 012 E 03, containing an area of approximately 3,060 square meters, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcels is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii.

The prospective lessee is Huang Zheng Corporation., Ltd., a CNMI corporation. Mr. Quan Huang is the sole director of the corporation.

The president of the corporation is Mr. Quan Huang.
- iii.

The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Quan Huang with the assistance of Mr. Tony A. Reyes.
- iv.

The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating facilities for recycling, a warehouse, retail of hardware materials, retail/wholesale of seafood products, and boat repair and maintenance.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- v.

A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi.

The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii.

The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 14, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

SaipanCell names a new president, CEO

GuamCell/SaipanCell Communications has appointed Jay Shedd as its new president/chief executive officer.

As president/CEO, Shedd will assume GuamCell/SaipanCell Communications’ helm during an exciting phase in the company’s growth. He will be leading the charge in products and technologies that will benefit both businesses and consumers.

Jay Shedd is not a new face at

GuamCell/SaipanCell. He came on board the company in 1994 as general manager, later rising to the position of senior vice president. Shedd left GuamCell/SaipanCell in 2003 to explore new opportunities in the U.S. mainland. During his nine-year tenure with GuamCell/SaipanCell, he led the company to become the island’s leading wireless communications provider.

GuamCell/SaipanCell is very

excited to have Jay Shedd back on board as president/CEO. With his expertise in telecommunications and established leadership, there is no doubt that he will continue to guide GuamCell/SaipanCell in its position as the leader in wireless communications. He is an excellent choice in pioneering new horizons in telecommunications and keeping GuamCell/SaipanCell as the clear choice for residents and visitors alike. **(PR)**

Beach Road’s 2nd car rally gathering steam

Beach Road Magazine’s Second Annual Car Rally gathers steam as regular radio and TV announcements hit The KAT, Power 99, and KSPN2.

“We are getting more excited by the day as we continue getting inquiries from interested parties. Surely, this event is something to be part of. It’s an adventure of a lifetime,” Susan Marchitti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager and lead coordinator for the event, said.

Exciting prizes await participants just for making it through the course. Cash prizes will be given to the top three winners. First prize winner will get \$250; second prize, \$200; and third, \$150, Marchitti said.

Registration is \$15 and space is limited to 60 cars.

Currently being finalized on the drawing board is the car rally route, which promises to be even more challenging than last year’s, Marchitti said. “We’d

like to make it better than last year’s route,” she said. Details about the route will be made available to participants on car rally day, which is May 24.

A popular motoring event in the United States and Europe, a car rally is not a speeding contest. It’s a cross between a scavenger hunt and an IQ test behind the wheel that’s guaranteed to take your driving skills to the next level.

Announcements about the car rally can be heard over The KAT and Power ‘99 five times a day starting May 4; and seen on KSPN 2 News and Sportswrappers, both on KSPN 2.

The Second Annual Beach Road Magazine Car Rally is a competitive motoring event in which drivers must successfully complete a given course by following a set of instructions. The starting point will be announced. Drivers will receive a new set of instructions at each checkpoint,

which will guide them through the next section of the rally up to the finish.

Winners will be announced at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in the evening of May 25. A special 10 percent discount on non-special food items will be given to car rally participants.

So hurry! Grab a copy of *Beach Road Magazine* for the entry forms, fill them out and submit to the Glimpses of Saipan office on the second floor of the Transpac Business Center along Middle Road, Gualo Rai (near Subway restaurant) during regular business hours from 8am to 5pm.

The Second Annual Beach Road Magazine Car Rally is sponsored by Shell Marianas, Pacific Telecom Inc., Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Aquarius Beach Tower and Budget Car Rental. **(PR)**

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Theft at Municipal Council

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any person(s) responsible for the theft of three air condition units at the Saipan Municipal Council located in Chalan Kanoa. The incident was reported to police on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 7:33am. An employee last se-

cured the office on Friday, April 25, 2008.

Stolen Property:

1. Two Carrier 9000 BTU air condition unit
2. One Mitsubishi 9000 BTU air condition unit

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. **(Crime Stoppers)**

Guam starts memorial wall restoration

HAGATNA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Gov. Felix P. Camacho, and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park have partnered to initiate the restoration project of the Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook in Nimitz Hill.

The Memorial Wall, created under Public Law 103-197 and dedicated in 1994, pays tribute to those who suffered or died on Guam during the occupation of World War II. The Wall honors all U.S. Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who died during the Battle for Guam from July 1, 1944 to August 10, 1944; the people of Guam who died or suffered personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment during the occupation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944.

“The Memorial Wall restoration project is important to both the history of Guam and to the memory of our people,” said Bordallo. “This project will restore the Wall and give our peo-

ple the opportunity to include names missing from the Wall, or make corrections to existing names on the Wall. This joint effort is a very important way to ensure future generations have this lasting monument to the heroes of Guam.”

The War in the Pacific National Historical Park was awarded federal special project funding to renovate the Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook with the opportunity to correct and include missing name panels on the Wall. The projected completion date for the refurbishing of the Memorial Wall is expected during summer 2009.

“There are currently 16,142 names on the Wall, but since its dedication in 1994, the National Park Service has learned that many Chamorros who died or suffered during the war are listed incorrectly, or not at all,” said Sarah Creachbaum, superintendent of the War in the Pacific National Historic Park. “The National Park Service is grateful to Congresswoman

Bordallo and Governor Camacho for assisting us in gathering the names of those who should be included, or should be corrected. It will be wonderful to finally correct the omissions and inaccuracies on the wall and to appropriately honor all those who endured so much.”

“The project will ultimately symbolize the stories of hope, triumph and patriotism that has inspired a patriotic American community for 64 years,” said Camacho. “I join Congresswoman Bordallo and the National Park Service in this important effort to further recognize the ultimate sacrifices made by Guam’s greatest generation.”

The public is encouraged to visit the websites of Bordallo (www.house.gov/bordallo) and Camacho (<http://guamgovernor.net/>) to learn more about the application process for correcting or including names on the Memorial Wall. Applications will be accepted from May 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2008. **(PR)**

'An evening with MLK' set next Wednesday



Grimmette

Aga named to Census' Pacific Islander panel

Tiva M. Aga, founder and executive director of Urban Development Programs in Hawaii, has been selected by Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez to serve on the U.S. Census Bureau's Advisory Committee on the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population.

As a member of the nine-person committee, the Honolulu resident will advise the Census Bureau on the new American Community Survey and ways to achieve a more accurate count of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in the 2010 Census.

"The Race and Ethnic Advisory Committees play a vital role in ensuring that we make the best effort possible to reach race and ethnic groups, not only during the 2010 Census, but also the American Community Survey that is conducted throughout the decade," Census Bureau Director Steve H. Murdock said.

As a community builder, Aga is a strong advocate for Pacific Islander communities within Hawaii in areas of health and social services, public awareness and building relations. She develops programs to assist Pacific Island women through health and education, with the goal of empowering women to become independent of public assistance and into homeownership.

Aga earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Chadron State College in Nebraska.

Five race and ethnic advisory committees—African-American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander—advise the Census Bureau on issues affecting minority populations.

The committees are assembled from the public at large and representatives of national, state, local and tribal entities, as well as nonprofit and private sector organizations. Members of the committees are academicians, community leaders, policy makers and others interested in an accurate count for their communities. (U.S. Census)

The NMI Council for the Humanities will host "An Evening with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," which features a Chautauqua performance by

master storyteller Bill Grimmette at 6pm on Wednesday, May 7, at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club.

Grimmette is a member of

the National Association of Black Storytellers and perennial performer at the Kennedy Center and Smithsonian Institution. He has portrayed Dr.

King at numerous venues in the United States.

Tickets for this event are priced at \$20 per person and include finger foods and a no-host bar. Tickets may be purchased at the Council office at King's Plaza in Dandan or at the door.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets soon.

Proceeds from this event will be used by the Council to support future public humanities programs. Contact Council staff at 235-4785 for more details. (PR)

MAY 2-5, 2008

Carmen Safeway SUPERMARKET

OPEN DAILY 6:00AM (MONDAY-SUNDAY)

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Pork Loin Bone-In
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Pork Belly
For Kawaii

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The Largest Selection of Wine & Liquor

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DE MAYO
TEQUILA
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SPECIAL**

**FREE 2 PCS. LEMON AND
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Patron Silver Tequila

\$60.00



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Tarantula Azul

\$15.15



Tequila Rose

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GROCERY

Zee Napkins
360 ct.

\$3.83



Soft N Gentle
Tissue
12 Rolls

\$5.61



Spam
Regular
12 oz.

\$1.99



Dinty Moore
Noodles &
Chicken
7.5 oz.

\$1.07



Folgers
Coffee
Regular
12 oz.

\$6.54



JAPAN PRODUCTS

House Indian Curry Hot
8.46 oz.

\$2.90



Cook-Do
Sauce
Mix
Subuta
140 g

\$2.45



Kitagawa
Pepper Fine
250 g.

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47¢
/lb.



Potato Brown

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/lb.



Garlic Netted

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/lb.



Orange

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/lb.

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**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health**



ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce the expansion of services to the island of Tinian beginning May 9, 2008. WIC staff will travel to Tinian at least twice per month to deliver services after this date. Applications may be picked up at the Tinian Health Center starting May 2, 2008. Please contact the Saipan WIC Clinic at 236-8750/8758 to schedule an appointment.

The CNMI WIC program has had a successful beginning, growing to approximately 2400 participants since the program began in August 2007. The WIC program is continuing to build capacity. CNMI WIC is currently building a new clinic on Navy Hill, Saipan and plans to expand to the island of Rota later this year. In the interim, USDA regulations (7 CFR Part 246) require that the CNMI WIC Program prioritize its current waitlist.

Effective immediately, the CNMI WIC Program will enroll eligible applicants in the following categories:

- Pregnant women
- Infants (0-12 months)
- Breastfeeding women (up to 1 year postpartum)

Postpartum, non-breastfeeding women and children ages 1-5 may be placed on the waiting list if requested. However, the Program does not have the capacity to make immediate appointments for children or postpartum women at this time, including those children who are reapplying because their current certification period has expired. As appointment slots become available, those placed on the waiting list will be contacted.

We appreciate your patience as we work to serve the community and the participants who are need of WIC services the most. If you are currently on the waitlist for children ages 1-5, please be advised that the Program will contact you as slots become available; however, we will not be able to predict when that would be.

As a reminder to current participants, please be advised that current enrollment does not guarantee continued enrollment in the program. Current participants must go through another certification. Appointments will be made according to the priority listings.

For more information about the CNMI WIC Program, please visit our website at www.cnmiwic.org.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary, Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
Director, CNMI WIC Program



After making a peaceful settlement with law officials, a member of the Hawaiian Kingdom Government unlocks the gates of the Iolani Palace after a short occupation, Wednesday, April 30, 2008 in Honolulu. AP

Native group takes over Hawaii palace grounds

HONOLULU (AP)—A Native Hawaiian group that advocates sovereignty briefly occupied the grounds of a historic palace in downtown Honolulu, saying it would carry out the business of what it considers the legitimate government of the islands.

Unarmed security guards from the Hawaiian Kingdom Government group blocked all gates to the grounds of the palace, which is adjacent to the state Capitol. They did not enter the building itself.

After several hours, the protesters agreed to reopen the gates but said they would remain on the grounds until early evening and return Thursday. No arrests had been made as of mid-afternoon.

Laura Thielen, state land director who oversees the palace area, said some of the protesters could still be charged.

"This is public property and they can't block public access," she said.

Protest leaders had said they were prepared to be arrested and would go peacefully.

Mahealani Kahau, elected "head of state" of the group years ago, said the organization does not recognize Hawaii as a U.S. state but would keep the occupation peaceful.

"The Hawaiian Kingdom Government is here and it doesn't plan to leave. This is a continuity of the Hawaiian Kingdom of 1892 to today," Kahau said.

The group is one of several Hawaiian sovereignty organizations in the islands, which became the 50th U.S. state in 1959.

The ornate Iolani Palace is operated as a museum. Hawaiian King Kalakaua built it in 1882, and it also served as the residence for his sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani, the islands' last ruling monarch.

It was neglected after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893 and restored in the 1970s as a National Historic Landmark. It includes a gift shop and is open for school groups and paid tours. The palace is a major downtown tourist attraction.

"The Hawaiian Kingdom Government is here and it doesn't plan to leave. This is a continuity of the Hawaiian Kingdom of 1892 to today," said Kahau, who was elected head of state of the group seven years ago.

The protesters are not damaging anything in the palace grounds, Kahau said. Workers inside the palace itself had locked the doors and were not letting them inside.

"We will not resist, we won't fight, we won't be aggressive. But we'll be back for sure," Kahau said.

No matter what happened Wednesday, the protesters planned to return to the palace Thursday, she said.

State Sen. Kalani English—a Native Hawaiian and a Democrat from East Maui-Lanai—

Molokai—came over from the Capitol to speak with some of the protesters, and had his staff take them food.

"This is the manifestation of the frustration of the Hawaiian people for the loss of sovereignty and land," English said.

"It is symbolic. This made a statement. It got the word out about the plight of the Hawaiian people," he said.

Richard Kinney, who described himself as an independent Hawaiian nationalist, said he went to the Capitol to show his support. He carried an upside-down Hawaii state flag, signaling distress.

"The sovereignty of these islands is inherent to the Hawaiian people, and we've never relinquished that," he said.

"Occupying any land, including Iolani Palace, is the beginning," Kinney said.

Kippen de Alba Chu, executive director of Iolani Palace, issued a statement that said the protesters delivered a written message to palace officials claiming the grounds as the seat of their government.

"While we respect the freedom of Hawaiian groups to hold an opinion on the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, we believe that blocking public access to Iolani Palace is wrong and certainly detrimental to our mission to share the palace and its history with our residents, our keiki (children) and our visitors," Chu said.

A. Samoa to get \$20M 'stimulus'

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. yesterday informed Gov. Togiola Tulafono that American Samoa will receive \$20.4 million under the federal economic stimulus law.

Provisions of the federal law state that in order for American Samoa to be able to receive funds from the U.S. Treasury, the territory must have a plan,

approved by the Secretary of Treasury, under which American Samoa will promptly distribute the rebates to its residents.

Additionally, the law establishes that the payment to be made by the Treasury Secretary to American Samoa will be "in an amount estimated by the Secretary as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of American Samoa" based on local tax laws.

Togiola submitted two weeks ago to the federal Treasury the territory's plan for the distribution of the rebates, which is based on information from 2007 income tax returns that were filed in 2008.

According to the plan, the local Treasury Department will use 2008 income tax returns filed in 2009 to make "final rebate" payments to eligible individuals.



INVITATION TO BIDS WATER TASK FORCE ITB08-GOV-058



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **AS MATUIS WATER WELL INTERCONNECTION AND WATER LINE PROJECT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- 7,700 feet of water main and appurtenances
- Interconnection of six water wells to the As Matuis water system.
- Installation of a PRV/PSV and Check Valve Station.
- Connection to the existing water distribution system.
- Construction of One (1) Booster Stations and sump.
- Construction of one access road.

A non-refundable payment of \$150 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after April 21, 2008 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **May 7, 2008**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, no later than **May 6, 2008**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB08-GOV-058"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 19, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 19, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 19, 2008, and must be received no later than **May 29, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 pm local time, **May 30, 2008**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 pm local time on **May 20, 2008**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Frank Tudela is quarter's top employee at the MVA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank Tudela, third from left, smiles as the Employee of the Quarter. Presenting the certificate is MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, Public Relations & Community Programs manager Martin Dueñas, and Personnel manager Polly B. Deleon Guerrero.

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently selected Frank A.H. Tudela as the recipient of the Employee of the Quarter award.

Tudela is currently a Community Development Specialist for the Public Relations & Community Programs division of MVA. Tudela has been an employee of MVA since November 1989. Tudela was recognized for his assistance and successful coordination of various events for MVA. Some of these events included the Saipan Fishermen's Association's Annual Wahoo Derby, the famous Xterra and the Tagaman Triathlon. He was also recognized for his good at-

tendance, determination, and his strive to achieve the goals and objectives of MVA.

"Mr. Tudela has a regular attendance of 93 percent. He always reports to work on time or earlier and is always ready to work," said Public Relations & Community Programs manager Martin Dueñas. "I am pleased that Frank had the determination to get the job done. This has allowed him to better his performance and reliability in every task that he undertakes here at MVA."

Tudela played a major role in staging the Annual Wahoo Derby, and provided critical support to

Taga, Inc. He provided administrative, logistical and professional help, which enabled Taga, Inc. to achieve the event coordination requirements for Xterra and the Tagaman Triathlons.

MVA offers an incentive for individual motivation towards providing quality service, increasing productivity, job knowledge and skills. The program recognizes outstanding performance and employee contribution towards meeting MVA's goals and objectives. As the employee of the quarter, Tudela received a certificate of recognition, a parking spot and \$100. (MVA)

MVA attends Expat Show Beijing

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently attended the Expat Show Beijing 2008. The two major market partners, Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Holiday, assisted MVA with the show.

Being the first show of this nature in Beijing, the Expat Show Beijing is devoted to providing services to the expatriate community living and moving to Beijing. Following the successful participation of the first Expat Show last September in Shanghai, MVA attended Expat Show Beijing to increase awareness of the CNMI and the upcoming resumed Beijing-Saipan route to those expatriates in Beijing and the North China Region.

The three day show attracted 8,000 visitors to MVA's booth. At the MVA booth, information kits from ground operators, including TASI, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan Grand Hotel, Palm Resort, Stars & Strips, Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort and Tinian Dynasty Hotel were distributed.

Leng Bai, the MVA's marketing specialist for the China market, along with staff from Century

Tours and Tinian Dynasty Holiday, handled inquiries from the visitors. Most visitors were interested in family tours, diving tours and golf tours to the CNMI.

In addition to being a VIP exhibitor, MVA was invited to organize a VIP dinner on April 5. At the dinner, MVA's Leng Bai discussed cooperation with World Event Agency, one of biggest event agencies

within the expat communities in China, to jointly develop the Expat Market.

"MVA continues to work closely with its industry partners to develop the China travel market," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the ADS that the CNMI enjoys, marketing to the outbound China market remains a top priority at MVA." (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Visitors inquire at the CNMI's booth during the Expat Show Beijing 2008.

SAIPAN SUNSET CRUISE OFFICE RELOCATION

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*Executive Home
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- 4 Bedrooms / 3 Baths
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\$369,000 or \$2,000 p/mo

For more information, pls. call:

483-3884



NOTICE TO ALL VALUED GUESTS

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Waterslides and Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:

Waterslides: May 12 (Mon) ~ June 1 (Sun), resume operation June 2 (Mon)

Point Break Wave Machine: June 12 (Thu) ~ July 3 (Thu), resume operation July 4 (Fri).

*Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen problems.

The pools will remain open during the waterslide maintenance, as well as the Lazy River and Siheky Splash Pool.

Thank you very much for your understanding.
PIC Management



Part-Time position available for our Saipan location. Applicant must have extensive knowledge of PCs. Position involves diagnosing and repairing personal computers and also customer service. Background in electronics a plus.

Computer Technician

Requirements:

- US permanent resident
- Must be able to lift heavy objects
- Friendly and self-motivated
- Excellent communication skills
- Dependable transportation



234-7368

Island Snapshots



BIG FISH
The biggest bigeye tuna ever caught in the Marianas tipped the scales at 440lbs. The fish was caught by Captain David Kerley and his crew of six longliners aboard the F/V Lady Carolina that is owned and operated by Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. All fish caught by Northern Marianas Fisheries, Inc. is delivered exclusively to Crystal Seas CNMI, Inc. on Rota. The fish is processed, packed and will be shipped to the U.S. mainland. Glenn H. Manglona, the company's vice president, is shown here second from right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
Members of the man'amko share a light moment during the proclamation signing ceremony designating the month of May as Older Americans Month/Mes Manamko'/Maramal Tufeeey at the Aging Office in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



HOUSE SESSION
Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, Rep. Diego T. Benavente, and Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz read some documents during Thursday's session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez pays tribute to the hardworking Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library staff during the recent rededication ceremony for the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library at the Northern Marianas College on As Terlaje Campus.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MMAC SPONSOR
StayWell Insurance sponsors the Marianas March Against Cancer again. From left is Kim Prinz, CHC Volunteers director; Jack Sablan, MMAC vice chairman; David Rosario, MMAC chairman; Jesse Torres, StayWell Saipan manager; Connie Dunn, marketing representative; Josephine Jones, accountant; and Sunny Loma, health officer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



REDEDICATION RITES
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez gather for a photo with Olympio T. Borja's family members, board members and Bank of Guam's Marcie Tomokane during the recent rededication ceremony for the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library at the Northern Marianas College on As Terlaje Campus.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



BRIDAL FAIR
Models walk the runway for the Bridal Fashion Show during the islands' first ever Bridal Fair and Party Exhibit at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Sunday. The event was organized by Saipan Grand's events manager and wedding planner Oscar Yema.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



ACOUSTIC NIGHT
Guests hit the dance floor to the music of Saipan Grand Hotel's new band, Remix, during last Wednesday's launching of the "Acoustic Nights with Carlsberg" at Club V.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Members of Saipan Grand Hotel's newest band Remix entertain the crowd at Club V during the "Acoustic Nights with Carlsberg".

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SABALU MARKET
Live chicken and ducks are on sale during the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association's first livestock auction last April 26 at the Sabalu Market in Susupe. The event gives an opportunity for farmers and other individuals to buy or sell animals and livestock.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SENATE SESSION
Senate President Pete P. Reyes is flanked by Sen. Luis P. Crisostomo, Sen. Paul A. Manglona, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider and Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas as they discuss a bill during a Senate special session recess on Capital Hill yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Belated happy birthday to Obet Aguilar of Quickprint who celebrated his special day on May 1. Also in photo are Obet's close friends Gari Ting and Kaye Atalig.



ARTS FESTIVAL
Visitors check the craft displayed at the Traditional and Contemporary Arts booth by John Castro, Santiago Castro and Steven Van Winkle during the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe last Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Flame Tree Arts Festival 2
Traditional craft are on sale at the Marshall Islands delegation booth for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe last Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Flame Tree Arts Festival 5
Tinian's Tim San Nicolas shows a sample of the Da'ok Oil during the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe last Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Flame Tree Arts Festival 4
Joe San Nicolas from the Tinian Mayor's Office teaches visitors how to weave coconut leaves during the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe last Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for **ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY 09/27 SHOULDER AND NEW GENERATOR, PHASE 2, PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-08.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of providing paved shoulders for both sides of the existing 6,000 feet of runway, providing new electrical conduits and new edge light, providing new generator and fuel tank and constructing generator room, grading and earthworks, and other related works in accordance with the plans and specifications hereinafter as parts of the Contract Document.

Bidder's attention is called to the Bidder's Qualification Statement, Section LP-4 that a prospective bidder must submit it along with bid proposals. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all Bidders and may reject the bidder based on unsatisfied bidder's qualification based on its best interest.

After receipt of bids the Owner will perform evaluation of the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. In the event that the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder is determined unqualified or unsatisfied to the Owner based on the evaluation, the Owner will perform a secondary evaluation of the qualifications of the next apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder until a qualified lowest bidder is determined.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time)** of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specification. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with **Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages)** of the General Project Requirements and shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each CD-Rom. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in casher's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications and bid proposal documents available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by an U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

April 30, 2008
Date

Business

Finalists named in NMC biz concept contest

The NMC Small Business Development Center and Business Department will be hosting the finals for the 3rd Annual NMC Business Concept Competition today, May 2, from 2pm to 5pm in Building V (Business Department) Room 215.

From the original eight teams that fielded business

proposals, the finalists were narrowed down to four, who will be presenting today in front of a panel of three judges from the local banking community.

The finalists are (in alphabetical order) Coconut Putt, Fill It Up, Marianas Skates, and Nova, LLC.

■ Coconut Putt is a proposed

miniature golf course.

■ Fill It Up is an alternative fuel supplier and gas station chain that will be sourcing fuel from Malaysia and competing against Shell and Mobil.

■ Marianas Skates is a proposed roller skating rink with snack bar, games and other entertainment.

■ Nova LLC is a proposed ar-

cade with snack bar.

The team that wins first place gets the \$1,000 prize. The second place team will get \$750, the third place team will get \$500, while the fourth place team gets the \$250 prize.

All eight teams are from the Introduction to Business (MG 231) classes.

The other four business concepts were Goo Goo Baby Store, a proposed retail store

specializing in children's clothes, toys, and accessories; Micronesian Beer Brewery, a proposed micro-brewery using the beer brewing equipment from the former Brew Haus Brewery next to Coffee Care; Pacific Utility Company, proposed alternative energy company using wind and ocean wave energy; and Saipan's Finest, a proposed resort with bungalows on the water with glass floors. (NMC)

Stocks dip, investors confused over Fed

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street gave up sharp gains and closed lower Wednesday after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a quarter point but left investors guessing about the central bank's next move. The Dow Jones industrial average, momentarily soaring above 13,000 for the first time since early January, ended the session with a modest loss.

The Dow Jones industrial

average fell 11.81, or 0.09 percent, to 12,820.13, after trading up 178 points shortly after the Fed's announcement.

Broader stock indicators also closed down, having given up steep gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.35, or 0.38 percent, to 1,385.59, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 13.30, or 0.55 percent, to 2,412.80.

The benchmark 10-year

Treasury note rose after the Fed's decision. Its yield, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.73 percent from 3.82 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar dropped against most other major currencies, while gold prices turned higher.

Crude oil for June delivery fell \$2.17 to settle at \$113.46 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after falling more than \$3 a barrel on Tuesday.

Economy grows just 0.6 percent in Q1

WASHINGTON (AP)—The bruised economy limped through the first quarter, growing at just a 0.6 percent pace as housing and credit problems forced people and businesses alike to hunker down.

The country's economic growth during January through March was the same as in the final three months of last year, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The statistic did not meet what economists consider a definition of a recession - which is a contraction of the economy. This means that although the economy is stuck in a rut, it is still managing to grow, even if slightly.

Many analysts were predicting the gross domestic product (GDP) would weaken a bit more - to a pace of just 0.5 percent - in the first quarter. Earlier this year, some thought the economy would actually lurch into reverse during the opening quarter. Now, they say they believe that will likely happen during the current April-to-June period.

"The economy is weak but not collapsing," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Bank of America's Investment Strategies Group. "A recession can't be ruled out, although the stars are not lined up at this point to definitively say one way or the other."

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials closed down 11.81 points.

Gross domestic product measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is the best measure of the country's economic health. Voters are keenly worried about the country's economic problems and so are politicians - in Congress, in the White House and on the campaign trail.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said the administration was disappointed in the figures. "This is nothing to crow about," she said. "It is very slow growth, but it is growth nonetheless."

The housing situation turned more bleak in the first quarter, as record-high foreclosures dumped more unsold homes on the market, adding to builders' headaches. Builders slashed spending on housing projects by a whopping 26.7 percent on an annualized basis. That was the most in 27 years and the biggest drag on the economy.

Consumers - whose spending is vital to the country's economic health - turned much more cautious, also restraining overall economic growth in the first quarter. Their spending rose at just a 1 percent pace. That was down from a 2.3 percent growth rate and was the slowest since the second quarter of 2001, when the United States was suffering through its



Customers shop at a supermarket in Chicago Tuesday, April 29, 2008. Consumer confidence fell for the fourth straight month because of heightened concerns about soaring inflation and the weakening job market.

last recession. Shoppers did cut spending on such things as cars, furniture, household appliances, food and clothes.

Soaring energy and food prices are walloping people's pocketbooks, leaving them with less to spend on other

things. The credit crunch also has made it harder for people to finance big ticket items, such as cars and homes.

Fed cuts rates as economy slumps

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scrambling to shore up the faltering economy, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates to the lowest point in nearly four years Wednesday as the nation teetered on the edge of recession.

Wall Street rallied at first but then pulled back, concerned that the reduction might be the last for a while.

In fact, the Fed's trim was smaller than those of recent months amid indications the central bank might pause to see if months of powerful rate-cutting medicine and billions of dollars in stimulus checks will be enough to lift the country

out of its slump.

Chairman Ben Bernanke led a divided Fed, in an 8-2 vote, in slicing its key rate by one-quarter percentage point to 2 percent.

In turn, the prime lending rate for millions of consumers and businesses fell by a corresponding amount, to 5 percent. The prime rate applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans. Both rates are the lowest since late 2004.

The Federal Reserve, which has been dropping rates since last September, turned much more forceful early this year when

housing, credit and financial problems worsened. Rate reductions in January and March alone marked the most aggressive intervention in a quarter-century in an effort to re-energize consumers and businesses.

"The substantial easing of monetary policy to date ... should help to promote moderate growth over time and to mitigate risks to economic activity," the Fed said, strongly hinting that more cuts may not be needed.

Enthusiastic Wall Street investors drove the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 178 points - lifting it above

13,000 for the first time since early January - right after the Fed action. Then traders' caution returned, and the index ended the day 11.81 points below where it started.

Although the Fed didn't take another reduction off the table, a growing number of economists believe the central bank is winding down its rate-cutting campaign. Barring another hit to economic growth, they believe rates probably will stay where they are - perhaps through the rest of this year - in part because the Federal Reserve is concerned that further cuts could join with galloping energy and food prices and spread inflation dangerously higher.

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,643.200 Down 13.800 (-0.24%)	HONG KONG 25,755.35 Down 158.80 (-0.61%)	JAKARTA 2,304.5161 Up 0.99 (+0.04%)
TOKYO 13,760.30 Down 89.69 (-0.65%)	K. LUMPUR 1,279.86 Down 3.79 (-0.30%)	MANILA 2,749.77 Down 4.52 (-0.16%)
SEOUL 1,825.47 Up 13.96 (+0.77%)	BANGKOK 832.45 Down 1.18 (-0.14%)	SINGAPORE 3,344.53 Up 3,344.53 (+0.00%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 12,820.13 -11.81
NASDAQ 2,412.80 -13.30
S&P 1,385.59 -5.35

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0654
British Pound	0.5032
Canadian Dollar	1.0081
Chinese Renmbi	6.9914
Euro	0.6395
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7935
Indian Rupee	40.495
Indonesian Rupiah	9222
Japanese Yen	103.725
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1585
New Zealand Dollar	1.281
Philippine Peso	42.213
Singapore Dollar	1.3577
South Korean Won	1002.5
Swiss Franc	1.035
Taiwan Dollar	30.448
Thailand Baht	31.63

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Dream offers that just lead you on

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—A job offer is supposed to bring relief after a long search, but that can be short-lived if the employer yanks the offer back, a prospect that becomes more likely in a struggling economy.

No matter how valid the reasons—or how profuse the hiring manager's apologies—a prospective employer's about-face still puts the worker in an awkward spot.

Consider this story, from Bruce Robertson, a human resources manager in suburban Washington, about a man he interviewed recently:

"He had been working at a local company and decided it was time to look for a new job. He interviewed at quite a few plac-

es and was eventually hired at a local government contractor. He was very happy to be offered an increase of 30 percent of his current salary. He was told they really did not need him for over a month so he decided to give the typical two-week notice from his old employer and then go on a two-week trip to Asia he had always dreamed about," Robertson wrote in a recent e-mail.

"One month later he went to his new employer and was greeted by his new boss. The man greeted him strangely and asked what he was doing there."

Apparently the job offer had been withdrawn because of funding problems, but no one had told the worker. He tried to go back to his old employer, but his position had already been filled.

The man went to a lawyer,

Robertson said, but he was told that there was no case. He couldn't collect unemployment because he had quit his last job and never actually went to work at the new one.

As unfair as all of that sounds, that's how it would work for most people.

Mimi Moore, an expert in labor and employment law at the Chicago office of Bryan Cave, said generally the only people who have legal recourse



A job offer is supposed to bring relief after a long search, but that can be short-lived if the employer yanks the offer back.

costs incurred as a result of accepting a phantom job, such as relocating, should know that it is "really difficult" to prove such a claim, and that the legal fees can quickly exceed the damages, Moore said. "Employers are increasingly aware of that potential problem," and they are trying to avoid it. "They're being a little bit more wishy-washy in their offer letters."

So what should you do if your new chair is pulled out from under you?

Some people get angry and figure they might as well let the employer know.

That was Chris Pennington. "I did not handle it well," he said. "I had never been told to report to work and then told not to come in. ... At first I tried to talk my way into working for them, but there seemed to be some sort of mysterious

against fickle employers are those with strong employment contracts. They aren't very common, "except for very high-level executives."

Angry workers wondering if they can sue an employer for

Passing the teacher test

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I have not taken the traditional route to teaching—I started after a few unsatisfying years in another career. Because I am teaching in a high-needs area, I was hired "conditionally" and have not finished my master's in education or my teaching certification. I recently had an observation meeting with my principal. She unfairly dumped on me, calling my teaching unmotivating, not fun, and saying it was obvious the student I was working with didn't like me. While I agree the lesson she observed had some flaws, I believe that a lot of these criticisms (and other things she has said) come from her belief that, as someone who does not have an undergraduate degree in education and has never done any student teaching, I am unfit to teach, period.

In my former job in the business world, I would have addressed this with the superior giving the evaluation. Here, I feel like that would be fruitless and would further alienate me, as everyone else in the school thinks this principal is great.

A: You're not the first new teacher to experience this problem—except the problem isn't what you think it is.

"When you enter a school, you have to be humble," said Tara Williams, site manager for D.C. Teaching Fellows, an alternative teacher certification program geared toward career-changers. It takes time and a lot of work to become an effective teacher, she said, something that high-achievers coming from other fields often have a particularly hard

time accepting.

And you do want to be good at this, right?

If so, you need to schedule a follow-up meeting with your principal (a.k.a. your boss), and this time really listen to her thoughts about what you are doing wrong. As you acknowledge, most of the people who work for her think she is great. That probably means she knows a thing or two about teaching.

"Your principal is your employer," Williams said. "Instead of saying 'I don't agree,' ask what you need to do to improve."

Perhaps your principal can pair you up with a mentor, or you can find one on your own. You want an experienced teacher you trust, and who will share honest feedback with you. Oh, and you have to actually listen to that person, too.

Williams said your assumption that your credentials (or lack thereof) are the problem might have been true five to 10 years ago, but it's an attitude that's rapidly disappearing. Principals care less about the route that people take to enter the profession, she said. "They just want people that make effective teachers."

Q: When is it appropriate to ask about salary and benefits during an interview? Is it during the interview or after they have offered the position?

A: It is to your advantage to wait until the prospective employer has made an offer, but that doesn't mean you should wait that long to think about what you need. Before you walk in to the first interview, you should have a solid sense of the market compensation for the job, as well as the minimum pay and benefits

you require.

If they press you to specify a salary early on, offer a range instead, one based on your market research. Emphasize that you care about the total package, not just the salary.

Benefits are more complicated, but you are smart not to overlook them. Too often people focus solely on the salary, but benefits can represent a significant portion of your total compensation.

When the employer makes a formal offer, ask for written explanations of health insurance, sick leave, parental leave and vacation policies. Human resources should be able to provide this quickly.

Q: Recently, a colleague sent me an e-mail by accident. It was intended for a co-worker, and it referred to some of my work habits. I responded, but tried not to make a big deal about what had happened. Now I feel uncomfortable dealing with this person, who might be talking behind my back about things. I don't believe that the comments made about me are true, especially without the person knowing everything about my work situation that I have arranged with our mutual manager, but they were judgmental. How would you have dealt with a situation like this?

A: I would have done pretty much what you did. Look on the bright side: Now you know what kind of people you work with. (Stupid ones, apparently, who don't understand the risks of gossiping via their work e-mail.)

Things are clear between you and your supervisor. Everybody else can mind his own business.

Nothing's posted? Apply anyway

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: What are your thoughts on submitting a resume to a company that doesn't have an opening posted? I'm moving in August. Luckily, there is a company in the area I'm moving to that does exactly what I specialize in. How should I approach this? Also, at what point should I begin my job search if I'm not planning to move for another five months?

A: Of course you can apply directly to this company. Few jobs are filled based on advertised positions. I would start

making contacts at the new company now. Five months isn't long at all.

Q: So you can just send your resume to Human Resources even if there isn't a posted opening? I thought that would come across as a no-no, because you wouldn't be able to tailor a cover letter to anything specific, i.e. it would just be a blanket letter.

A: Yes, you absolutely can send your resume without an advertised opening. Having an ad in hand makes it easier to tailor the cover letter, but it's not necessary.

'real reason' for them not hiring me and it became obvious that I was not going to get hired so I cursed them out and remain unemployed and bitter."

However, a softer approach might pay off, especially if the economy is the reason the hiring company reneged.

Give the employer the benefit of the doubt, Moore said. "In this economy, people never know what their hiring needs are going to be. They make predictions, but sometimes they are wrong."

Appeal to the employer's self-interest. "They obviously don't want to be known as the company who offered to hire 50 people, then rescinded 30 offers," Moore said.

Moore suggested that workers try to come up with creative solutions. Perhaps the start date could be deferred, with a small stipend. If there was a signing bonus, perhaps the worker could keep that. Maybe the hiring manager could write a letter explaining what happened that you could show future potential employers.

At the very least, ask the company to keep you in mind for other positions.

If your skill set is pretty specific, it should be clear who you are and what you can do for them. There's nothing "blanket" about that.

Q: I wanted to challenge the notion that when you're looking for another job, you shouldn't let people know. It might help you get promoted to let people know that you're taking the bar in another state, for instance. Worked for me.

A: Of course, they might also just sack you on the spot.

Edited questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Bracing for tough times

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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Recession, depression, downturn in the market—no matter what it's called, there's less money going around. Taking the right steps now can help you get through what might be a bumpy time.

If you've been considering a job change, perhaps to a middle-management slot in the same or another company, give it long thought before you accept a position. "Last hired, first fired" could apply if your new company downsizes, and middle managers are most vulnerable. Meanwhile, be indispensable at the job you do have.

Develop multiple sources of income. If you have a marketable mini-skill or hobby (small engine or appliance repair, sewing, home maintenance) that al-

lows others to fix what they have rather than buying new, consider starting a part-time business. Invest in a few ads to promote your services and increase your presence in local groups. The more you're known in places like church or social or service groups, the more opportunities you'll have to spread the word and to hear what others are able to provide.

Set up a trade system with likeminded others. If you can fix a computer, but your neighbor is good with oil changes or alterations, you both can benefit.

Do it yourself where possible. If your local community college or chain hardware store offers classes in home repair, take advantage of those that will allow you to avoid the high cost of repairs.

Sign up on Freecycle (www.freecycle.org), a site that pro-

motes the reuse of goods.

Don't take on any new debt. When magazine subscriptions expire, don't renew. Get out of book clubs, gym memberships (unless it causes a penalty fee) and anything that involves an automatic expense each month.

Minimize the number of automatic bill-paying deductions you have coming out of your checking account. Write checks each month instead, staying more in control of your money.

Take care of maintenance now for anything from dental work to roof repair to forestall big expenses down the road.

Consider unemployment insurance to cover your mortgage.

Imagine that your income is cut off tomorrow. Calculate how long you would be able to survive and pay your bills on the money you have now. Consider what a dollar means to you today versus what it might mean tomorrow.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Indictment: Missing girl was beaten, denied medical care

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—A young girl who is missing and presumed dead had been repeatedly beaten and locked in a closet for hours because she wet herself, according to an indictment released Wednesday. The 60-count indictment against Aaron Thompson paints a grim picture of brutality against his daughter Aarone (EHR'-in-ay) and seven other children in his suburban Aurora home. Investigators believe Aarone may have died as early as 2003, when she was 4 years old. Thompson reported her missing in November 2005, when she would have been 6.

Dangers remain for Virginians digging through twister debris

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP)—Residents gathered at a school Wednesday, carrying black garbage bags and backpacks as they waited to be taken to their tornado-ravaged neighborhoods to gather necessities from their homes. Several said they were upset that officials were allowing them only 10 minutes at their houses. "I understand the need to make sure more people don't get hurt but it's still frustrating," John Catania said. Worried state officials had said earlier they didn't know if residents would encounter new dangers including damaged power lines and natural gas mains. Police listed condemned homes that homeowners wouldn't be allowed to go into Wednesday.

New Mexico police remove 3 children from church compound

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—State police have removed three children from an apocalyptic church whose leader claims to be the Messiah and acknowledges having sex with some of his followers. The two girls and one boy—all under the age of 18—were taken from the northeastern New Mexico compound following an April 22 investigation, Romaine Serna, spokeswoman for the state Children, Youth and Families Department spokeswoman, said Wednesday. She said a fourth child, a girl, agreed to be interviewed by the department. Serna said that girl had been at the compound but now lives elsewhere with her parents.

People evacuate Maine homes as St. John River floods

FORT KENT, Maine (AP)—People fled homes and businesses along both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border near this town at the northern tip of Maine on Wednesday as the area suffered its worst flooding on record. At least 3 inches of rain in 24 hours combined with melting of the heaviest winter snow accumulation in memory to send the St. John River to 28.2 feet—more than 3 feet above flood stage. The river is expected to crest at 31 feet Thursday, 4 feet higher than the previous record set in 1979, said Joseph Hewitt of the National Weather Service.

Spectacular blaze damages nightclub at Hollywood and Vine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fire tore through a hip nightclub at the storied corner of Hollywood and Vine on Wednesday, covering the landmark-studded neighborhood with smoke and ash. No injuries were reported. The one-story building, built in the 1920s or '30s, is now home to the Basque Nightclub & Restaurant, but it was not open at the time, firefighters said. Lindsay Lohan celebrated her 21st birthday at the club and Kanye West partied there just last week. The fire was knocked down by 8 a.m., Battalion Chief Mario Rueda said at a news conference in front of the charred club.

Pittsburgh is nation's sootiest city

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A city outside California has for the first time been named the sootiest in the nation, one of the categories the American Lung Association uses to determine the most polluted cities in the country.

Los Angeles still took the all-around pollution title, though.

Pittsburgh overtook Los Angeles in the category that measures short-term particle pollution or soot. Los Angeles, the country's longtime soot and smog leader, has enacted aggressive measures to tackle sources of pollution, resulting in a substantial drop in particle

pollution levels, said Janice Nolen, the association's assistant vice president of national policy and advocacy.

"It's not that Pittsburgh has gotten worse; it's that Los Angeles has gotten better," Nolen said. "If the trend continues, Pittsburgh will top two lists, and LA will only be leading the nation in ozone."

Still, Los Angeles held its own in two other categories measuring year-round soot levels and smog. And statewide, 26 of California's 52 counties with air quality monitoring stations got failing grades for having either high ozone days or particle pollution days.

White House admits fault on banner

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House said Wednesday that President Bush has paid a price for the "Mission Accomplished" banner that was flown in triumph five years ago but later became a symbol of U.S. misjudgments and mistakes in the long and costly war in Iraq.

Thursday is the fifth anniversary of Bush's dramatic landing in a Navy jet on an aircraft carrier homebound from the war. The USS Abraham Lincoln had launched thousands of airstrikes on Iraq.

"Major combat operations in Iraq have ended," Bush said at the time. "The battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that began on Sept. 11, 2001, and still goes on." The "Mission Accomplished" banner was prominently displayed above him—a move the White House came to regret as the display was mocked and became a source of controversy.

After shifting explanations, the White House eventually said the "Mission Accomplished" phrase referred to the carrier's crew completing its 10-month mission, not the military completing its mission in Iraq. Bush, in October 2003, disavowed any connection with the "Mission Accomplished" message. He said the White House had nothing to do with the banner; a spokesman later said the ship's crew asked for the sign and the White House staff had it made by a private vendor.

"President Bush is well aware that the banner should have been much more specific and said 'mission accomplished' for these sailors who are on this ship on their mission," White House press secretary Dana Perino said Wednesday. "And we have certainly paid a price for not being more specific on that banner. And I recognize that the media is going to play this up again tomorrow, as they do every single year."

She said what is important now is "how the president would describe the fight today. It's been a very tough month in Iraq, but we are taking the fight to the enemy."

Officials looking at possible abuse among the FLDS boys

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas officials told legislators Wednesday that they're investigating the possible sexual abuse of some young boys taken from a polygamist sect's ranch, as well as broken bones among other children.

The disclosures are the first suggestions that anyone other than teenage girls may have been sexually or physically abused at the ranch run by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a ren-



In this May 1, 2003, file photo, President Bush declares the end of major combat in Iraq as he speaks aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln off the California coast.

egade Mormon sect.

In written and oral testimony provided to lawmakers Wednesday, officials with the state Department of Family and Protective Services said interviews and journal entries suggested that boys may have been sexually abused.

Earlier, the department's commissioner, Carey Cockerell, told lawmakers that at least 41 children, some of them "very young," have evidence of broken bones.

Scientist rediscovers plant unseen since 1985

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A scientist with the Missouri Botanical Garden has rediscovered and identified a rare parasitic plant that hasn't been seen by botanists in more than 20 years.

A single specimen of the plant was found in Mexico in 1985, but the plant wasn't seen again until St. Louis botanist George Yatskievych and a colleague found it in a pine oak forest in Mexico's mountains.

The plant, which he is identifying and naming for the first time, is not a classic beauty. The odd, orange-brown, fleshy-stemmed plant—which will have the formal Latin name for the "little hermit of Mexico"—has a pine cone-shaped dense cluster of flowers and juicy celery-like stalks.

But to Yatskievych, it's "weird and wonderful."

"I've always been interested in plants that don't conform to our preconceived notion of what a plant should be," he said. "Beauty is in the beholder's eye and this plant is wonderful in so many ways."

"You can't call it ugly, but on the other hand, I recognize it's not everyone's cup of tea."

Wayt Thomas, scientist at the New York Botanical Garden, was looking for other plants in Mexico when he encountered a single specimen of the plant in 1985.

He cut a piece of it, and kept a dried, pressed specimen at his institution. He sent queries and photos of it to fellow botanists, but no one recognized or claimed it, he said, not even the late Larry Heckard who was the leading North American expert on parasitic plants. It went unrecognized because parasitic plants, when dried, don't maintain their color and structure well.

"It sat around for a long, long time," Thomas said.

But by luck, he met an Austrian botanist who referred him to Yatskievych, who is writing text for the encyclopedic "Flora of North America," on the very family of flowers he believed the Mexican plant was in. Plants in the family Orobanchaceae attach as parasites on the roots of host plants.



In this photo provided by Missouri Botanical Garden, a man holds up a portion of the stem and flowers of a newly rediscovered parasitic plant in its natural habitat Monday, June 12, 2006, in Guerrero, Mexico.

Asia

Abused Afghan women often end up in jail

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP)—Trafficked across the border from Pakistan with her 3-year-old son, Rukhma was handed to an Afghan who raped and abused her, then beat the toddler to death as she watched helplessly.

He was jailed for 20 years for murder, but Rukhma ended up in prison too.

Rukhma, who doesn't know her age but looks younger than 20, had put up with her mistreatment for three months last summer before seeking protection and justice from authorities. Instead she was given a four-year sentence on Dec. 5 for adultery and "escaping her house" in Pakistan, even though she says she was kidnapped and raped.

The fall of the Taliban six years ago heralded new rights for Afghan women: to go to school or get a job, and be protected under the law. Women's rights are now enshrined in the constitution.

Yet except for a small urban elite, a woman fleeing domestic violence or accusing a man of rape herself often ends up the guilty party in the eyes of judges



An Afghan abused 16-year-old girl recuperates at a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, March 19, 2008. She underwent reconstructive surgery after her abusive husband cut off her nose and ears, and used a stone to bash out all but six of her teeth. Ashamed of her deformities, she keeps a scarf tightly wrapped around her face. She was too scared to speak or tell her name.

and prosecutors.

"Why am I here? I'm innocent," Rukhma said, crying in a musty jail cell and cradling a baby daughter by her previ-

ous marriage whom she bore in prison. "It is cruel to have your son killed before your eyes and then to be imprisoned."

In parts of Afghanistan and

neighboring Pakistan, where stern social codes prevail, a woman who runs away from home is typically suspected of having taken a lover and can be

prosecuted for adultery. Simply leaving her house without her family's permission may be deemed an offense—as in Rukhma's case—although it is not classified as such under Afghanistan's penal code.

The chief prosecutor of eastern Nangarhar province who oversaw Rukhma's case suggested she got off lightly.

"If my wife goes to the bazaar without my permission, I will kill her. This is our culture," Abdul Qayum shouted scornfully during an interview in his office in the city of Jalalabad.

His colleagues laughed approvingly. "This is Afghanistan, not America," Qayum said.

The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission registered 2,374 cases of women complaining of violence in 2007, compared with 1,651 in 2006—a sign that more are seeking help.

Family response units have been established in the police force, and there are tentative signs of sympathy in officialdom—at least in the relatively liberal capital, Kabul.

At a Kabul hospital, a 16-year-old girl who is too scared to give her name is recuperating from reconstructive surgery after her husband cut off her nose and ears, bashed out all but six of her teeth with a stone, and poured boiling water on her.

In-laws from southern Zabul province want to take the girl home, but the hospital director refuses to hand her over.

"This brother-in-law comes every day. He says, 'Let me take her home. She's OK

now,'" Dr. Ghairat Mal said. "I don't trust him. The Ministry of Women's Affairs brought her to us, and I won't let her go unless they take her."

Kamala Janakiram, a U.N. human rights officer in eastern Afghanistan, said that in 70 to 80 percent of the cases she has seen, a woman complaining of domestic violence is charged as a criminal for running away from home.

The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said many rape victims are forced to marry their attackers or are jailed for adultery because proving rape is virtually impossible.

Women can end up in prison simply on the basis of gossip, said Manizha Naderi, the director of Women for Afghan Women, an aid organization. "It's a horrible, horrible practice."

Fear of returning to a violent spouse drives some women to suicide.

Janakiram cited the case of a young village woman in Laghman province who was shot by her husband and left to die.

She survived, but the provincial judge refused to hear her plea for a divorce and insisted that local elders resolve the matter.

Janakiram said the woman was so scared of being forced to return to her abusive husband that on Jan. 30, she set herself ablaze in front of the Laghman court. She had burns on 98 percent of her body and died a week later.

Naderi told of a 16-year-old girl kidnapped from her engagement party by three men and raped, after which her fiancé called off the engagement.

7 killed in raid on hideout in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Hundreds of intelligence agents on Wednesday raided the hideout of militants with suspected links to an attack on President Hamid Karzai, as the Afghan capital was sucked deeper into the war against the Taliban.

Terrified residents hid from booming guns and grenades that destroyed the mud-brick house. The battle claimed seven lives - a woman and a child who were in the house, three intelligence agents and two militants.

One of the dead militants had supplied weapons used in Sun-

day's attack on Karzai, intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh told reporters.

Afghan security services are under pressure to crack militant cells after the assassination attempt, which came during a military parade in Kabul that was also attended by foreign ambassadors. The attack highlighted the president's weak grip on the country.

The U.S.-backed leader escaped injury, but a lawmaker and two other people were killed.

Saleh said Wednesday's raid

on a densely populated hillside in western Kabul was part of a wider operation in which six other militant suspects were detained elsewhere in the city.

He said the border regions of neighboring Pakistan were the source of the militant threat.

Saleh alleged that militants involved in the gun and mortar assault on Karzai were exchanging cell phone text messages with people in Pakistan's Bajur and North Waziristan regions and the main northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Although he did not directly

implicate Pakistan's government, Saleh's comments could dampen recently improved relations between the countries, relations often strained over allegations that Pakistan helps the Taliban.

"We have no evidence whether ... the operation has had any mercy or go-ahead from the government of Pakistan and (its) special agencies," Saleh said. "There (is) very, very strong evidence suggesting that Pakistan's soil once again has been used to inflict pain on our nation."

Olympic flame's Everest ascent is grand but secret

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese mountaineers made final preparations Wednesday to take the Olympic flame up Mount Everest in a grand but contentious feat that is being accorded an unusual mixture of fanfare and secrecy.

As China marked 100 days before the start of the Olympics, state-run television began the first of what were billed as elaborate and technically difficult live broadcasts from Everest's base camp for the journey up the world's tallest peak.

Mountaineers were completing the setup of a staging point at 27,390 feet for the final assault on the 29,035-foot summit, Chinese Central Television reported.

There was no word on the flame's whereabouts or those of the 31-member team that would go to the summit. Nor was there any news on which



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, staff members lay a flag of the Olympic logo at the base camp of Mt. Qomolangma, China's name for Everest, at the altitude of 5,200 meters in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

members would ascend to the peak or when.

The Web site of Beijing Daily likened the lack of information to a "mysterious veil that has

surrounded base camp."

Some media reports had speculated that the climb could come as early as Wednesday - when the countdown clock in Beijing

marked 100 days to the Aug. 8-24 games—or Thursday—the May Day holiday.

A brewing storm made a climb in the next three days unlikely, the Xinhua News Agency reported late Wednesday, citing Yang Xingguo, the expedition's weather expert at base camp.

To commemorate the 100-day mark, Beijing held a mini-marathon outside the nearly completed National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, and a song gala, where actor Jackie Chan joined other celebrities to sing "Beijing Welcomes You," which was written for the event.

Senior Communist Party leader Jia Qinglin urged all Chinese "to pool our patriotic passion to accumulate a mighty force that could overcome all difficulties to in a bid to hold a successful Olympics."

RP calls for global rice buffer stocks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine agriculture chief proposed Wednesday the creation of an international rice buffer stock to ensure global food security amid surging prices.

Arthur Yap said the stockpile could be initiated by the United Nations or the World Bank to prevent sharp increases in rice prices.

"It's time to put up an international buffer stock, perhaps with a special drawing rights system that would be available to any country in the world," Yap told Dow Jones Newswires.

He said hyperinflation threatens many countries right now, and "it's in the best interest of the world that we work together for stability in rice prices."

Yap's comments came after the Philippines, the world's largest rice importer, failed to buy all the grain it sought in an April tender despite agreeing to pay 62 percent more than at a similar

tender just a month ago.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Tuesday the country will need to keep importing rice until at least 2013 to make up for a 10 percent domestic shortfall.

Arroyo said the Philippines might not be able to achieve rice self-sufficiency until then because "we really cannot put attention to long-run policy when we have a near-term solution that we need to address."

The government said it has so far signed contracts for about half of the 2.1 million metric tons (2.3 million US tons) of rice it plans to import this year. It is to hold another tender next week.

Arroyo has already declared war on rice hoarders blamed for creating artificial shortages, and promised to improve distribution and invest US\$1 billion (euro750 million) to boost production.

World

US troop deaths hit 7-month high

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military death toll hit a seven-month high of 50 on Wednesday - with more than half the losses in Baghdad as American forces wage growing street battles against Shiite fighters.

Iraqi civilian deaths also remained high following the Iraqi government crackdown on Shiite militia factions - accused by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of using residents as human shields during close combat in the teeming Sadr City slum.

The clashes in Sadr City - a base for the powerful Mahdi Army militia - show little sign of easing as Iraqi and U.S. troops try to exert control over an area containing nearly half of the Baghdad's population.

In the deadliest skirmish Wednesday, suspected Shiite extremists first attacked with mortars and machine guns, then drove up a U.S. checkpoint and opened fire. The U.S. military said seven militants were killed. At least 10

other militiamen died in other clashes, the military said.

But the growing violence in Baghdad also has taken a toll on U.S. forces.

At least five soldiers have been killed in the city since Tuesday, bringing the monthly count to at least 50—27 in Baghdad—in the deadliest month since September when 65 U.S. troops died.

Since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, at least 4,062 U.S. military personnel have died in Iraq, according to an Associated Press count.

The U.S. military reported early Thursday that a soldier had been killed by an explosion Wednesday near a patrol in Nineveh Province.

Around Iraq, at least 1,080 Iraqi civilians and security forces were killed nationwide this month, or an average of 36 a day, according to an AP tally. That's down from March's total of 1,269, or an average of 41 per day.

But nearly 40 percent of the April deaths - 413 - occurred in Baghdad as violence returned to the capital, according to the AP figures compiled from reports from Iraqi police, hospital officials and government offices.

Civilian deaths have steadily risen this year, and spiked sharply after al-Maliki launched the offensive on Shiite militias on March 25 in the southern city of Basra. Fighting soon flared in Sadr City, which has become the epicenter of the battles.

It's difficult to determine the civilian toll from the ongoing clashes in Sadr City.

An Interior Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information, said a total of 479 people have been killed in Sadr City since the clashes began in late March. But the official could not break down the number of militants, Iraqi security forces and civilians.



The flag-draped casket of Sgt. Adam J. Kohlhaas, 26, is taken from a plane Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at the Bowling Green, Ky./Warren County Airport. Kohlhaas, of Perryville, Missouri, died April 21, 2008, in Baiji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device.

Austria case revives European debate on light prison terms

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Police say Josef Fritzl left a lot of human wreckage in his wake: the daughter he imprisoned and raped for 24 years, the seven children he fathered with her and the wife whose life he shattered.

Yet, for an atrocity that has stunned the world, he may wind up serving just 15 years in prison if charged, tried and convicted.

Practically speaking, that may translate into a life sentence for Fritzl, 73. But his case has revived a debate over Europe's lenient penal system - and whether harsher, U.S.-style sentencing guidelines might help deter such heinous crimes.

"Fifteen years for destroying human lives is unacceptable," said Harald Vilimsky, a public safety policy official with Austria's conservative Freedom Party. "Any punishment that falls a single day short of a life sentence is a mockery of the victims."

Many Europeans abhor the death penalty, and capital punishment is illegal across the 27-nation EU. But in many countries, even convicted murderers handed life sentences seldom serve more than 25 years.

Sweden has life imprisonment for murder, but the sentencing guidelines go as low as 10 years. That applies - in theory at least - even to serial killers.

In Germany, convicted rapists are punished with sentences of six months to five years. Serial cases, and those involving weapons or death threats, can

Austrian incest suspect may be linked to unsolved murder

AMSTETTEN, Austria (AP)—Police are looking into possible links between a young woman's killing and the man who confessed to holding his daughter captive for 24 years and fathering her seven children, a senior law enforcement official said Wednesday.

Alois Lissl, the chief of police of Upper Austria province, told The Associated Press that although

Fritzl would be asked for an alibi because the property owned by his wife could mean he was in the area when Posch was killed, Lissl said.

"We are looking at the case from a third angle," he said of the new direction the investigation has taken.

Fritzl, 73, confessed Monday to imprisoning his daughter Elisabeth for 24 years in a

warren of soundproofed cellar rooms, sexually abusing her, fathering seven children with her and discarding the body of an one, who died in infancy, in a furnace.

On Tuesday, tests confirmed that the retired electrician is the biological father of his daughter's six surviving children.

Three of the children were locked in the underground labyrinth with their mother for years.



Fritzl

no evidence had surfaced so far, police have widened their investigation into the unsolved murder 22 years ago to include the incest suspect.

The bound body of 17-year-old Martina Posch was found on a shore of the Upper Austrian lake of Mondsee in 1986. Josef Fritzl's wife owned part of an inn and camping ground on the other side of the lake at that time.

fetch up to 10 years in prison - but also as little as 12 months.

Poland's maximum for rape is 15 years, and that would apply even for sexual assaults repeatedly carried out over two dozen years as alleged in the Austrian case. The standard time served? Two to 12 years.

"It's rare that anyone serves

the full sentence in Europe," said James Whitman, a professor of comparative and foreign law at Yale. "It's expected that people are let out early."

In the U.S., by contrast, first-degree rape is punishable by up to life imprisonment in states ranging from Maryland to South Dakota.



LARGEST EYE

Museum of New Zealand technician, Mark Fenwick shines a flashlight on the eye of the largest known specimen of a colossal squid, caught in the Ross Sea, in a pool of brine in Wellington, New Zealand, Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Marine scientists studying the carcass of a rare colossal squid said Wednesday they had measured its eye at about 11 inches across, bigger than a dinner plate, making it the largest animal eye on Earth.

Israel moves to shutter West Bank charity it links to Hamas

HEBRON, West Bank (AP)—To Nayfa Shatat, the widowed mother of 11, Hebron's biggest Islamic charity is a lifeline: It schools her daughters and helps feed her family.

To Israel, the Islamic Charitable Association is a front for the Islamic militant group Hamas, promoting the movement's violent ideology in its schools and funding extremist activity against Israel.

Early Wednesday, Israeli soldiers raided a sewing workshop run by the association, seizing sewing machines and bolts of

cloth, witnesses said. The army said the workshop was used to raise money for militants.

While the association denies any links with Hamas, the military says it plans to close all the charity's operations, which include a boarding school for 600 disadvantaged children, several day schools and a bakery.

It's part of an intensified crackdown on Hamas by Israel and the West Bank government of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas violently seized control of the Gaza Strip from Abbas' forces last June, and nei-

ther Israel nor Abbas want to see a repeat in the West Bank.

In recent months, Israeli troops and Abbas' security forces have gone after West Bank charities, moneychangers, women's cooperatives and media outlets with suspected ties to the militants.

However, closing the Hebron association is more delicate because it serves thousands of children.

A closure would deny services to the poor at a time when Abbas' government is not always able to pay for an alternative. Hamas has built a network of schools, clinics and welfare offices over two decades, deepening its roots in Palestinian society as a key provider of social services.

Off the Wall

Teen sends text to foil alleged intruders



CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL

Mick Thompson, 51, of Wyoming, crosses Fifth Avenue in Huntington, W.Va., on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, on his horse, Hawkeye, while carrying his dog, Yogi, on his lap. Thompson says he and his dog have been traveling on horseback across the country since 2003. Having started his journey on the West Coast of Oregon, Thompson plans to make it all the way to Maine to eat lobster. "I grew up on a cattle ranch," he said. "Don't you ever get tired of beef?"

Dinosaur dung sells for nearly \$1,000



In this undated photo released in New York by Bonhams Auction House, two specimens of Coprolite, or fossilized dinosaur dung, are shown.

NEW YORK (AP)—A pile of dinosaur dung 130 million years old sold at a New York auction Wednesday for nearly \$1,000.

The prehistoric deposit fetched \$960, said a spokeswoman for Bonhams New York. Its pre-auction estimate was \$450.

The fossilized dung is from the Jurassic era, the auction house said. It looks like a rock on the outside and a colorful mineral inside.

The buyer was Steve Tsengas of Fairport Harbor, Ohio. The 71-year-old owns OurPets, a company that sells products to treat dog and cat waste.

Tsengas bought the dung in hopes of motivating his employees and using it as a marketing tool by displaying it at the company's booth at trade shows, he said.

"Poop," he said, "is a big business in the pet industry."

LITHOPOLIS, Ohio (AP)—A teenager home alone pulled bed sheets over her head to hide from two intruders and sent a text message to her mother, whose 911 call led to the arrest of two suspects, authorities said Wednesday.

Lauren Durnbaugh, 13, didn't go to school Tuesday and was home when she heard someone open an unlocked rear door. She climbed into bed and hid under the covers as the suspects began ransacking rooms in the house about 15 miles southeast of Columbus, authorities said.

"OMG. They're in the house. I think we're being robbed," Durnbaugh said in a text message to her mother, Margo

Roby, 53, who was working at a car dealership about 15 minutes away.

Racing home, Roby called 911. Back in the house, the intruders roamed from room to room, and at one point sat on Lauren's bed, police said.

"They didn't know she was there while they were going through stuff," Sheriff Dave Phalen said.

Roby arrived home and rammed her vehicle into the back of the suspects' car parked in the driveway, Phalen said.

One of the suspects, Jenna Marie Burns, came out of the house and Roby wrestled with her just as sheriff's deputies and the Lithopolis police chief ar-

rived, Phalen said.

"I ran in to get my daughter. She was just shaking like a leaf," Roby said.

Jewelry, a laptop computer, a digital camera and a tool box were among items the intruders had set outside apparently to be carried away, Phalen said.

Roby said she blamed herself for failing to lock the door when she left for work. But she's proud of how her daughter handled herself.

"After we cried, she said, 'Wow, I can't believe I did that,'" Roby said.

Burns, 20, of Orient, and Jeremiah Lee Fyffe, 26, of Lockbourne, were arrested and charged with burglary. Burns

also was charged with robbery. Both remained in a county jail Wednesday on \$100,000 bond.

Burns' mother, Virginia Burns, said her daughter is only guilty of "bad association."

"I think that my daughter has made the wrong choice in people, and now she's going to pay the price for that association," she said. "I believe in my daughter. She is a goodhearted individual. But she has made a bad decision and she'll pay the price for it."

A phone listing for Fyffe could not be found.

If convicted, Burns faces a maximum sentence of 16 years in prison; Fyffe faces a maximum of eight years.

Prom invite written on players' bottoms

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)—Thirteen members of a high school lacrosse team have been disciplined for baring their bottoms on which was written a prom invitation from one player to a girl.

Carolyn Campbell, a senior at Huron High School, accepted the invitation to go to

the prom with fellow senior Kristoff Wennersten.

The varsity lacrosse players displayed the question, "Will You Go To The Prom With Me? Yes or No?" on their bottoms, which they bared during a junior varsity game last Thursday.

Officials suspended the 13 players for an undetermined num-

ber of games and ordered them to perform 20 hours of community service. They also were suspended from school for one day.

"Inappropriate is inappropriate," school athletic director Dottie Davis told The Ann Arbor News. "It disrespects women, and that's the clear message we need to have the students

understand - what may be fun to them isn't necessarily fun to everyone else." Campbell accepted the invitation by patting the back of the player who displayed the word "Yes."

Wennersten said he understood the decision to discipline him and his teammates, adding, "I enjoyed every bit of it."

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Science & Technology

Circuitry discovery could lead to beefier memory

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—For nearly 40 years, scientists have speculated that basic electrical circuits have a natural ability to remember things even when the power is switched off. They just couldn't find it.

Now researchers at Hewlett-Packard Co. have proven them right, with a discovery they hope will lead to memory chips that store more data but consume far less power than those found in today's personal computers and other digital devices.

The newly discovered circuit element—called a memristor—could enable cell phones that can go weeks or longer without a charge, PCs that start up instantly, and laptops that retain your session information long after the battery dies.

It also could challenge flash memory, which is now widely used in portable electronics because of its ability to retain information even when power is off. Chips incorporating the HP discovery would be faster, suck up less power and take up far less space than today's flash.

"It certainly looks promising," said Wolfgang Porod, professor of electrical engineering at the University of Notre Dame and director of the university's Center for Nano Science and Technology. "However, if it's going to be 100 times better or 1,000 times better (than today's flash), it's very hard to say at this point."

Scientists have suspected since the 1970s that along with

the three well-known elements of a basic circuit - the resistor, the capacitor and the inductor - a fourth fundamental building block is possible.

The memristor built by HP Labs researchers and reported Thursday in the scientific journal *Nature* is made with a layer of titanium dioxide sandwiched between two metal electrodes. The researchers discovered that the amount of resistance it exerts depends on how much electric charge had previously passed through it.

That characteristic gives the memristor an innate ability to remember the amount of charge that has flowed through it long after the power to it is turned off. That means the circuit itself can be built with a memory function baked in.

Otherwise, data have to be stored in power-hungry transistors configured for storage. That also takes up valuable real estate on microprocessors or requires separate memory chips.

Some outside researchers, however, said more study is required before the memristor upsets the memory business. The HP Labs team said commercial viability is at least "a few years" away.

"These structures are going to be very small. It's obvious to me one could make very dense memory out of them, but how it could compete against other memory like flash remains to be seen," said Porod, who was not involved in the HP research.

Leon Chua, a professor in the



Hewlett Packard Company senior fellow Stan Williams looks through a special microscope at HP Labs in Palo Alto, Calif., Tuesday, April 29, 2008. Williams and his team were able to create something called a "memristor," which is an new elusive fourth element in electronic circuitry that stores information.

AP

electrical engineering and computer sciences department at the University of California, Berkeley, published a paper in 1971 theorizing that it should be possible to build such a structure.

Over the years, researchers observed behavior that seemed to suggest circuits possessed this ability, but they either dismissed it as a fluke or didn't realize the significance of the observation.

Stan Williams, a senior fellow at HP Labs and one of the four researchers on the *Nature* paper, said his team was able to identify the behavior and build a structure to harness its power because the effect is more apparent—and gets stronger—as the wiring in the circuits gets smaller and smaller.

Chua, who wrote the first paper on the topic when he was a new professor at Berkeley, is now 71 years old and says he's nearing retirement from the university.

"I never thought I'd live long enough to see this happen," Chua said with a laugh. "I'm thrilled because it's almost like vindication. Something I did is not just in my imagination, it's fundamental."

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Adobe Systems Inc. says it will license its video-enabling Flash software for free for mobile devices to help developers make mobile Internet experiences more closely resemble the experience on computers.

The world's fifth-largest software maker is launching what it calls the Open Screen Project with support from phone makers Motorola Inc., Nokia Corp., Samsung Electronics, Sony Ericsson and Toshiba Corp., from chip makers Intel and Qualcomm, and from content providers including NBC Universal, MTV Networks and the BBC, among other companies.

Adobe, which also makes Acrobat publishing software and Photoshop, planned to announce the move Thursday.

With the Open Screen Project, Adobe said, it aims to improve Internet experiences on all electronics, including computers, TVs and dig-

ital video recorders. But mobile devices are a particular focus.

Many mobile applications have met with disappointment from consumers. And game and video developers have been burdened with cranking out numerous versions of applications for mobile devices, said Kevin Lynch, Adobe's chief technology officer.

"You have to make over 100 different versions of that game in order to actually make it work across all these different phones," Lynch said.

Notably missing from the list of industry supporters for Adobe's project is Apple Inc. The iPhone maker does not use Flash on its smart phones, and Chief Executive Steve Jobs has publicly criticized Flash for being too slow.

Adobe says it's working on a version of Flash for the iPhone—now that Apple has released the information needed to custom fit the software to Apple's operating system.

Adobe plans to give away Flash for mobile devices

MySpace unveils new karaoke feature

ON THE NET

<http://ksolo.myspace.com/>

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—You're sitting at home online and suddenly you get an irresistible urge. You absolutely have to belt out R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" and share it with the world.

You now have that ability, thanks to the new MySpace Karaoke, to be launched Tuesday by the social networking site.

MySpace Karaoke (ksolo.myspace.com) debuts nearly two years after Fox Interactive, a division of News Corp., which owns MySpace, purchased the karaoke site kSolo.com. The combination of MySpace and kSolo allows users to upload audio recordings of them singing everything from R. Kelly to Richie Valens to their profile page.

MySpace co-founder and president Tom Anderson (known by many as the friend who comes automatically with a MySpace account) said MySpace and karaoke are a natural fit.



In this image released by MySpace Karaoke, a video screen showing the lyrics to "Amazing Grace" is shown.

"It is in part because music is so popular on our site," said Anderson. "But also because karaoke is such a fun and social thing, which is what we're about too. It's not as much fun to go to karaoke alone, but when you do it through the Internet or on your MySpace page, then you can share it with people."

Recordings can be prominently displayed on one's MySpace

page and receive ratings from friends (and, presumably, fans). As of Monday afternoon, the most popular song to sing was Sarah McLachlan's "Angel."

MySpace Karaoke and kSolo—the first major karaoke site—are just two destinations of a small industry of online karaoke sites. SingShot, owned by Electronic Arts, and Bix, owned by Yahoo!, are also big

names in karaoke on the Web.

And YouTube has, of course, been the largest repository of people dancing around their bedrooms and singing their favorite songs. While MySpace Karaoke doesn't currently have a video option, Anderson says it's in the works and that it will include a split-screen duet feature.

Users need only a microphone to sing into. MySpace Karaoke gives them the music to sing over (with vocals removed) with the lyrics scrolling across their computer screen. There are also numerous effects that users can play with to alter their recordings.

Right now, the site has between 2,000 and 3,000 songs available, all of them licensed from music publishers. The difficulty of managing those rights has been the reason for the delayed launch, Anderson said.

"It was quite difficult," he said. "The rules and the licensing changed over time and became more complicated since MySpace is a global company. There's different rights in different territories."

Criminals try to 'copyright' malware

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Even criminal hackers want to protect their intellectual property, and they've come up with a method akin to copyrighting - with an appropriate dash of Internet thugery thrown in.

Professional virus writers are now selling a suite of software on the Internet with an unusual attachment: a detailed licensing agreement that promises penalties for redistributing the malicious code without permission.

"I just kind of chuckled - it's kind of humorous," said Zulfikar Ramzan, senior principal security researcher with Symantec Corp.

Symantec researchers noticed a Russian-language example floating around the Internet and wrote about it on the company's official blog this week. They said it's the only example they've seen.

The software is used to infect computers and control them remotely. The zombie machines can be used to pump out spam, launch more attacks or steal personal infor-

mation from their owners.

Networks of zombie machines—known as "bot nets"—can be extremely lucrative, sometimes bringing millions of dollars in profit for their authors and their distributors. To maximize that profit, the software analyzed by Symantec's researchers contained the following rules:

- The customer can't resell the product, examine its underlying coding, use it to control other bot nets or submit it to antivirus companies and agrees to pay the seller a fee for product updates.

- The threat: Violate the terms, and we'll report you ourselves to the antivirus companies by giving them information about how to dismantle your bot network or prevent it from growing bigger.

While not legally binding, the terms amount to a novel way to protect ill-gotten profits—except that by ratting out their customers, malware authors risk drawing attention to their own enterprises and giving antivirus makers clues on combatting them.

HD cameras still don't click

By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Pocket-size electronic devices can't do just one thing anymore. Phones take pictures, MP3 players show movies and GPS receivers double as photo albums.

Digital cameras have to keep up with the times, too. They added video-recording ability years ago—and now that most phones can shoot short clips of their own, some cameras are moving on to high-definition footage.

At a time when Hollywood still has a hard time delivering a high-def copy of your favorite movies, the idea of being able to make your own widescreen, HD production can sound exciting.

Doing that with a camera that you were going to buy anyway, rather than HD-capable camcorder that would cost twice as much, would be even more appealing.

But—you knew there would be a but—this camera feature needs more time to develop, judging from a trial of two new HD-capable models from Kodak



Panasonic's Lumix DMC-FX500

and Panasonic. Their video capabilities may not come at much of a price premium—Kodak's EasyShare V1073 has a list price of \$250, while Panasonic's Lumix DMC-FX500 lists at \$400—but they don't deliver the visual quality you'd expect.

Their blurry and sometimes unfocused footage came about as close to a "real" camcorder's output as a typical cameraphone's pictures come to a "real" camera's shots.

The Kodak model had the most trouble in this area. Simply

panning across a scene seemed to overwhelm the camera's brain, smearing motion into a blur or dropping frames entirely. You'd have a trying time shooting a soccer match.

But even when held steady, the Kodak's footage looked grainy and often blotchy, evidence of how much the camera compresses video. It almost never exhibited the sharp detail, like wrinkles on a person's face or fine print on a sign, that pops out in HDTV broadcasts.

The Panasonic had different

issues that underscored the same point: There's a reason why HD camcorders cost so much.

To its credit, this camera's video looked notably clearer overall. In daylight and when held still, the Panasonic got quite close to what you'd recognize as HDTV. It also didn't get as discombobulated by motion.

But high-def video needs high-fidelity audio, too, not the flat, tinny sound recorded by the Panasonic's single weak microphone. Imagine piping an

HDTV broadcast's soundtrack through a clock radio's speaker—that's what videos shot with this camera sound like.

And where Kodak made its HD capability accessible through simple touch-screen controls, Panasonic hid it behind a confusing series of on-screen menus that could lead you to think this camera doesn't shoot in HD.

With all of their issues, though, these cameras can still do good work in the right situ-

ation: anchored in place, with a subject that doesn't move much and with plenty of natural light.

You may recognize these conditions as those required for cameraphones to perform their best three or four years ago. And just as cameraphones' capabilities have advanced, the HD video features of cameras most likely will also keep improving.

The flaws they exhibit now, as glaring as they seem, are the kind the tech business should be able to solve the old-fashioned way: by throwing enough processing power and memory at them.

EBay makes public its complaint vs Craigslist

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

—The legal wrangle between Craigslist and eBay Inc. is about the competition in the online classifieds market, eBay's complaint in the case reveals.

Craigslist considers eBay's new site Kijiji a competitive activity that nullifies some shareholder rights eBay won when it bought a 28 percent stake in Craigslist in 2004, according to the complaint, which eBay made public on Wednesday.

But eBay contends Craigslist went too far in interpreting what rights eBay should lose. And it's suing Craigslist for allegedly diluting its stake unfairly.

"The original agreement between the two parties always envisioned that there could be competitive activity," said eBay spokeswoman Kim Rubey.

Craigslist said Wednesday in a blog posting on its site that eBay is intent on dominating the classifieds business.

EBay purchased its stake in privately held Craigslist from an unnamed former executive who solicited buyers.

EBay's lust for acquiring the rest of Craigslist is blatant throughout the complaint. EBay says industry analysts believe the online classifieds site is worth several billion dollars, and in July, former eBay CEO Meg Whitman told Craigslist she'd "welcome the opportunity to acquire the remainder of (it)."

EBay launched Kijiji in 2005 in non-English speaking countries and then in the U.S. in June 2007. On the same day, Craigslist sent eBay a letter saying it had engaged in competitive activity, according to the complaint.

"We are no longer comfortable having eBay as a shareholder, and wish to explore options for our repurchase," Craigslist CEO Jim Buckmaster wrote in a subsequent letter

quoted in the complaint.

Then, Craigslist founder Craig Newmark and Buckmaster "engaged in a series of clandestine transactions designed to ensure that eBay would not be able to elect a director, and to either impose new transfer restrictions on eBay or dilute its interests, and to dilute the interest of the employee holders of company stock options," the complaint says.

Craigslist said its every action was for the sake of protecting the long-term well-being of the Craigslist community.

"Sadly, we have an uncomfortably conflicted shareholder in our midst, one that is obsessed with dominating online classifieds for the purpose of maximizing its own profits," the post said.

Parts of the complaint, mostly those that refer to stock holdings, are still blocked out at Craigslist request, eBay said.

Tenn. zoo breeds endangered frogs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A new breeding program at the Memphis Zoo could nearly double the known population of an endangered frog species.

Biologists estimate there are only about 100 adult Mississippi gopher frogs left in the wild, but zoo officials say they've successfully produced 94 tadpoles through in-vitro fertilization.

The reclusive, stocky frog measures about three inches long as an adult and has large hind feet made for digging through holes and burrows made by other animals. They have a pointed snout and large eyes, which they cover with their front feet when threatened.

The species once lived in Louisiana's lower coastal plain, parts of Mississippi and the Mo-

bile River delta in Alabama, but now is only found in two locations in Mississippi.

Named by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an endangered species in 2001, the frog's habitat in longleaf pine forests and breeding sites in isolated ponds has been threatened by natural processes and residential development.

Linda LaClaire, a biologist for the wildlife service, oversees the frog's habitats in Mississippi and says the agency hopes to use the new tadpoles to grow the population in the wild.

"They are endemic to the longleaf pine forest, which is almost gone in the south," LaClaire said. "We also have a disease problem that creates tremendous mortality in tadpoles."

The zoo, which has been successful at in-vitro fertilization of another amphibian, says this is the first ever captive breeding of the Mississippi gopher frog.

"We can now replicate this on a regular basis and hopefully can apply what we have learned to other endangered amphibians," said Dr. Andy Kouba, the zoo's director of research and conservation.

Kouba said the tadpoles are currently about the size of a half dollar and just started sprouting legs. While the adult frogs that were used in the breeding are not on display, Kouba said the zoo might consider putting the new frogs in a public exhibit.

"They like to hide, so we have to figure out a way to display them appropriately," he said.

Q: My G5 iMac is slow as a dog these days. I have a gigabyte of memory on it, and about 2 GB of space left on its 250 GB hard drive.

A: A gig of memory should be enough for that computer. It's the hard drive that's the problem: It's not giving the computer enough room to manage its memory.

On any new Mac or PC, the operating system will constantly shuffle data from RAM—its random-access memory chips—to its hard drive. This lets it save the faster RAM for files and programs in use now, while less-essential data are "paged" out to the hard drive.

But this efficient mechanism can break down if the drive doesn't have enough free space, say, 10 percent of its total capacity, for all of this reading and writing. The "disk fragmentation" caused when your files

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



must be saved in separate, scattered chunks to fit on the drive will slow the PC further.

Putting in a larger hard drive or deleting enough files from the current drive should solve that.

Q: I've got a stack of blank VHS tapes. Can't I recycle these things?

A: Not too many years ago, you could have made money doing that, but the market has dried up. Carpel Video in Frederick, Md., for example, once paid for used VHS tapes, then would only take them for free—and stopped accepting

them entirely last year. The Seattle recycling company GreenDisk (www.greendisk.com) charges you upfront to process old videotapes into their component plastics.

You might be able to sell them directly to other VCR owners, to judge from the occasional bargain-basement sale concluded on eBay. Charities may be able to use blank videotapes as well, but call to check first. You can also post a notice on a local Freecycle site (www.freecycle.org) to see if anybody near you will take them off your hands.

CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY TIPS

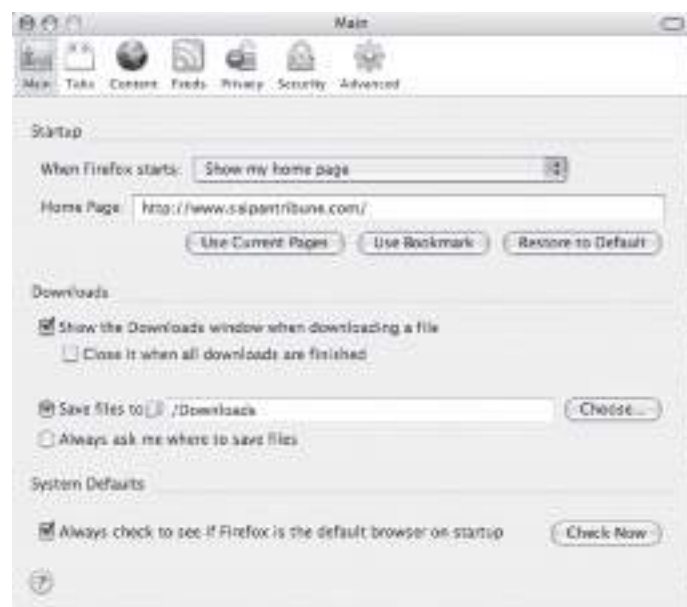
By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

When your computer starts acting up, locking up or freezing up, it can be immensely satisfying to punish its disobedience by unplugging it, usually while cursing at the machine. But, if you want to keep using the computer, limit yourself to cursing. Yanking the plug (or removing a laptop's battery) stops the computer dead instantly, giving it no time to stop the hard drive or pause whatever it might have been doing. Data corruption, or worse, can easily result, especially on older systems. Instead, if the computer won't respond to any of your inputs, push and hold in its power button. After a few seconds, a Mac or PC should shut down for you, a less jarring procedure than an instant loss of power.

■ ■ ■

When computing veterans run a new program for the first time, they'll often go straight to its options or preferences window to see how they can customize the software. Beginners, however, rarely even see these Settings, even though there's usually no trick to getting to them. In just about every Mac program, go to the top-left corner of the screen, click on the menu named after the program



The preferences window of popular Internet browser Firefox.

and click "Preferences."

Windows applications are not as consistent, but in most cases you'll click on the Tools menu and select "Options." Some, however, will call that item "Preferences" or "Settings." A few programs, such as iTunes, will put this command under the Edit menu; in Microsoft Office 2007, it hides behind the large round "Office button" at the top-left corner of the window.

■ ■ ■

Have you bought any music files from a music service that — like Microsoft's MSN Music, Yahoo's Yahoo Music or Sony's Connect — is no lon-

ger in service? If so, you can't count on being able to listen to those files forever; you're more likely to find that you can't play them on your next computer. To escape that trap, burn them to audio CDs while you still can. Then pop those freshly burned discs right back into your computer and rip their contents back to the machine in an open, unlocked format such as MP3 (you may need to retype the title/artist/album info for each song). You'll probably lose a bit of the original download's sonic fidelity, but you won't have to worry anymore about being shut out of those songs.

Life & Style

New approach to handling difficult kids

By SANDRA G. BOODMAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

They are the children no parent dreams of having, but many are struggling to raise.

As a group they bear various labels: difficult, challenging, hard to handle, defiant, volatile, willful. For nearly a century, experts have advised parents to employ a variety of often contradictory methods to deal with them.

Yet parents who must navigate the minefield of daily life often complain that they haplessly ricochet from one approach to another, with little or no success.

"Every part of everyday life became a huge task that affect-

modification, an approach the authors say can be useful for parents who are stymied by difficult behavior that occurs habitually or sporadically.

The authors recommend "positive parenting," which basically urges parents to "catch children being good," coupled with a systematic regimen designed to extinguish unwanted behavior by failing to reward it. Behavioral approaches generally involve setting clear limits, consistently and calmly adhering to them, and prompting and rewarding desired behavior. Some satisfied parents liken the methods to those for training a dog.

"Effective Parenting for the Hard-to-Manage Child" by Washington area psycholo-

Kazdin's regimen, demonstrated in an accompanying DVD, is based on nearly two decades as director of the Yale Parenting Center and Child Conduct Clinic, working with children often referred by schools or courts. Kazdin said his techniques reflect the best available scientific evidence about what works—and more important, what does not.

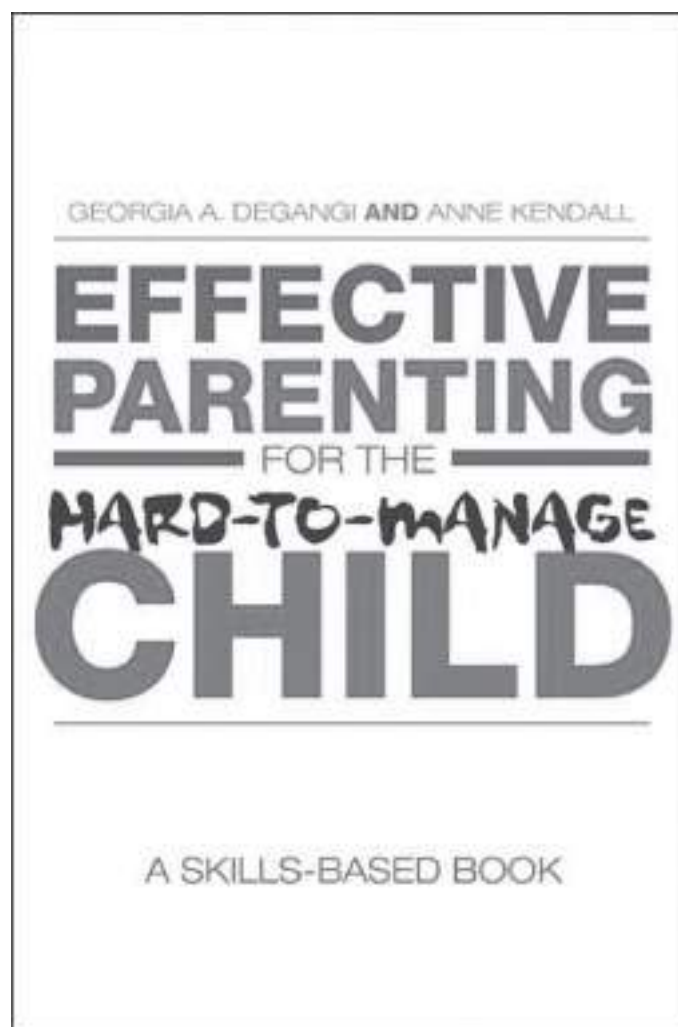
"Most popular parenting books violate the tenets of what we know is effective," Kazdin said. Many, he observed, advocate that parents "understand your child, talk to your child so he won't be angry. It's wonderful to talk to your child, but talking won't change his behavior for a minute," added Kazdin, president of the American Psychological Association.

Both books reflect an emerging consensus in the field of child development.

"Difficult children have always been around," said Michelle Macias, a professor of pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina who chairs the American Academy of Pediatrics section on developmental and behavioral pediatrics. These days, she noted, "the variability of child development and behavior is better understood."

"There is quite a range about what parents consider difficult," Macias added, some of it unrealistic. She said she commonly encounters parents who know nothing about basic child development or workable parenting strategies.

"I see very well-meaning parents who negatively reinforce behaviors they don't want," she said, either by reacting harshly or inconsistently to



advocates that parents practice effective ways to praise, how to punish using brief timeouts or withdrawal of privileges, and what not to do. Harsh punishment, he said, especially physical discipline, can immediately suppress misbehavior but its effects don't last, which is why parents often escalate punishments. Parents who hit or nag, he said, lead to "escape and avoidance" by a child and fail to encourage or reinforce good behavior.

So how does Kazdin handle a 5 year old who has explosive 30-minute tantrums during

"You remind the child it's pretend and then do it. If a child complies, you say, 'I can't believe it, you just stood there when I said no and didn't throw things.' Then you say, 'I bet you can't do it again.' And when the child does, you praise and give another star. If the child fails, you say calmly, 'Okay, no star this time because you threw things. We'll try again later.'"

Practice sessions and positive reinforcement repeated over several weeks, Kazdin said, become the foundation for behavioral change.

"I know it sounds counterin-

mend a similar strategy. "One of the things we tell parents who are pulled in so many different directions is, 'You don't have to be perfect, you just have to be good enough,'" Kendall said. "That will take you 80 percent of the way."

"One of the things we emphasize in the book is structure," she said. "Some parents are more gifted at this than others." She said she often sees disorganized parents complaining that their child never remembers to turn in his homework.

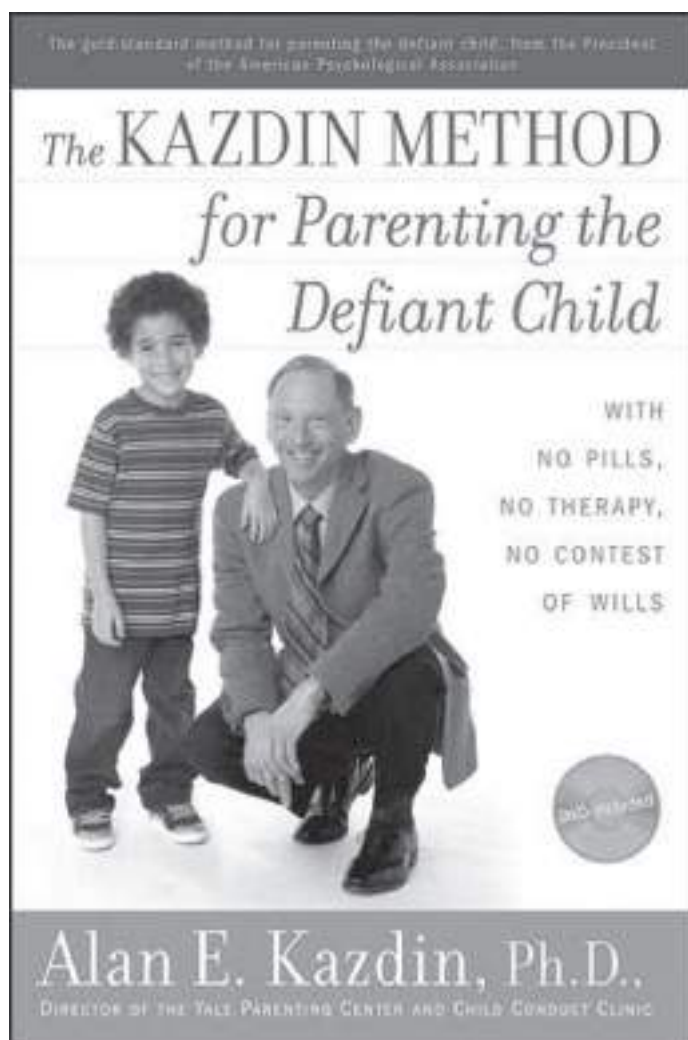
The D.C. father said his family is reaping the benefits of a behavioral strategy similar to those outlined in DeGangi and Kendall's book. After years of therapy, medication and frustration, the boy's parents launched a behavioral program six months ago to deal with their oppositional sixth-grade son, who has severe attention deficit disorder.

Before that, the boy used to routinely refuse to get out of bed in the morning for school, resistance that extended to brushing his teeth, eating breakfast or other requests, all of which plunged his family into an uproar that often lasted until the boy went to sleep.

"We would try yelling, punishments, taking away his Game Boy or not going on a ski trip—nothing worked," the father said, adding that his son's problems were jeopardizing his marriage.

Since they instituted a token reward system Kendall helped devise, the toxic before-school hour has improved dramatically.

"He is really interested in getting those points" and is allowed to play a computer game before school if he gets out of bed,



ed our whole family," said one Washington father, who asked not to be identified to protect the privacy of his son, now 11, whom he described as difficult from birth. "It was relentless."

The confusion and angst surrounding how to cope with a child who routinely throws prolonged tantrums long after the "terrible twos," chronically forgets to turn in homework or otherwise refuses to get with the program are shared by parents whose children wouldn't be defined as difficult. ("Difficult" can be an elastic term that reflects the fit between a parent's and a child's temperaments.)

Now two new books by veteran psychologists offer advice for parents culled from decades of clinical practice. Both volumes emphasize behavior

gists Georgia DeGangi and Anne Kendall (2008, Routledge, \$24.95) is written in a workbook format and aimed at parents of children 12 and younger who have a variety of emotional problems. Some take medication for attention deficit disorder, depression or anxiety, while others are socially clueless or stubbornly oppositional. Experts agree that although drugs may help suppress some troublesome symptoms, they do not change difficult behaviors, a point made in both books.

Yale psychology professor Alan Kazdin is the author with Carlo Rotella of "The Kazdin Method for Parenting the Defiant Child With No Pills, No Therapy and No Contest of Wills" (2008, Houghton Mifflin, \$26).

misbehavior or by endlessly trying to reason with a child.

"It's very common for a parent to attend immediately to a child in a tantrum," which reinforces the behavior. Instead, she advises them to make sure a child is safe and then ignore it or walk away.

"I tell parents all the time, 'Act, don't yak.'"

Managing a Meltdown

Kazdin could not agree more. He said he often informs parents, "I don't want you to KNOW anything, I want you to DO things differently." He

which he trashes a room?

"That's really easy," said Kazdin whose strategy incorporates the ABCs of behaviorism: antecedent, behavior and consequence.

At home during a calm period, tell the child you're going to play a game. "You say, 'I'm going to pretend to say no and you're going to have a tantrum, but you're not going to hit or throw things. If you can do that, we're going to walk over to the refrigerator and put a star up on your chart,'" which can be turned in for a reward, such as a favorite food or TV time.

tuitive," he said.

Many parents, Kazdin noted, dole out praise ham-handedly, either by making it too general to be meaningful ("Good job!") or by "cabooosing" ("Why can't you pick up your toys every time?").

To be effective, Kazdin said, praise should be specific, enthusiastic and immediate. That means telling a child who picks up toys, "That's great! I asked you to pick up your toys and put them in the box, and you did."

One Parent's Experience
Kendall and DeGangi recom-

brushes his teeth and eats breakfast promptly and pleasantly, behavior his father says has become habitual. "It's become incorporated into our morning routine," he said.

"It took a lot of work," the father added. At first the regimen sometimes seemed overwhelming, but "it's been worth it because he is showing us he can do it."

"It's made a big difference in our family and allowed us to realize that each other isn't the enemy. It's a toehold—but we know we have a very long way to go."

“As a group these children bear various labels: difficult, challenging, hard to handle, defiant, volatile, willful. For nearly a century, experts have advised parents to employ a variety of often contradictory methods to deal with them.”

DNA confirms IDs of czar's children, ending mystery

By **MIKE ECKEL**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MOSCOW (AP)—For nine decades after Bolshevik executioners gunned down Czar Nicholas II and his family, there were no traces of the remains of Crown Prince Alexei, the hemophiliac heir to Russia's throne.

Some said the delicate 13-year-old had somehow survived and escaped; others believed his bones were lost in Russia's vastness, buried in secret amid fear and chaos as the country lurched into civil war.

Now an official says DNA tests have solved the mystery by identifying bone shards found in a forest as those of Alexei and his sister, Grand Duchess Maria.

In this undated file photo Russia's Czar Nicholas II, seated second from left, Czarina Alexandra, center rear, and their family are shown. Bottom row left to right, Princess Olga, Czar Nicholas II, Princess Anastasia, Prince Alexei and Princess Tatiana. Top row left to right, Princess Maria and Princess Alexandra.

AP

The remains of their parents—Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra - and three siblings, including the czar's youngest daughter, Anastasia, were unearthed in 1991 and reburied in the imperial resting place in St. Petersburg. The Russian Orthodox Church made all seven of them saints in 2000.

Despite the earlier discoveries and ceremonies, the absence of Alexei's and Maria's remains gnawed at descendants of the Romanov dynasty, history buffs and royalists. Even if Wednesday's announcement is confirmed and widely accepted, many descendants of the royal family are unlikely to be fully assuaged; they seek formal "rehabilitation" by the government.

"The tragedy of the czar's family will only end when the family is declared victims of political repression," said German Lukyanov, a lawyer for royal descendants.

Nicholas abdicated in 1917 as revolutionary fervor swept Russia, and he and his family were detained. They were shot by a firing squad on July 17, 1918, in the basement of the Yekaterinburg house where they were being held.

Rumors persisted that some of the family had survived and escaped. Claims by women to be Anastasia were particularly prominent, although there were also pretenders to Alexei's and Maria's identities.

"It was 99.9 percent clear they had all been killed; now with these shards, it's 100 percent,"

Study: Gender, other factors guide preemies' survival

ATLANTA (AP)—Doctors now have a better way of helping parents make an agonizing decision—whether to take heroic steps to save a very premature baby. The number of weeks in the womb has generally been the chief factor.

But a new study shows others are important, too—including whether the infant is a girl and whether the child gets lung-maturing steroids shortly before birth.

Those extra factors can count as much as an extra week of pregnancy.

The new information could change how doctors and parents decide what kind of care to provide to tiny, fragile premature infants, said John Langer, a co-author of the study being published this week in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Besides being a girl and getting the steroids, an extra 3 1/2 ounces or so of weight and being a single birth also helped as much as an extra week of pregnancy, the study found.

"For the first time, parents and their doctors will have the best available information on which to base

said Nadia Kizenko, a Russian scholar at the University at Albany, State University of New York. "Those who regret this news will be those who liked the royal pretender myth."

Alexei was one of the more compelling of the victims, drawing sympathy because of his hemophilia. His mother's terror of the disease and fear that he would not live to gain the throne were key to her falling under the thrall of the hypnotic and sexually ravenous self-declared holy man Rasputin, who exerted vast influence on the royal family.

Researchers unearthed the bone shards last summer in a forest near Yekaterinburg, where the royal family was killed, and enlisted Russian and U.S. laboratories to conduct DNA tests.

Eduard Rossel, governor of the region 900 miles east of Moscow, said tests done by a U.S. laboratory had identified the shards as those of Alexei and Maria.

"This has confirmed that indeed it is the children," he said. "We have now found the entire family."

"The main genetic laboratory in the United States has concluded its work with a full confirmation of our own laboratories' work," Rossel said.

He did not specify the laboratory, but a genetic research team working at the University of Massachusetts Medical School has been involved in the process. Evgeny Rogaev, who headed the team that tested the remains in Moscow and at the medical school in Worcester, Mass., was called into the case by the Russian Federation

one of the most difficult and time-sensitive decisions they are ever likely to face," said Langer, who works in Maryland as a statistician for the North Carolina-based Research Triangle Institute.

The research focused on extremely premature babies, those born after 22 to 25 weeks in the womb. A full term is about 40 weeks.

Extremely premature babies face some of the longest odds of survival and often are placed on breathing machines or given other special help. They often weigh just 1 1/2 pounds and measure 10 or 11 inches—not much longer than an average adult's hand.

These births present parents with a terrifying choice—whether to take extreme measures to save the child, possibly destined for a life of severe disability, or stop treatment and allow the child to die.

The new study focused on nearly 4,200 extremely premature infants born at hospitals across the country.

Half died within two years after birth. About 12 percent survived but had significant impair-

Prosecutor's Office.

He told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he delivered the results to Russian authorities, but said it was up to the prosecutor's office - not him or his team - to disclose the findings.

"The most difficult work is done and we have delivered to them our expert analysis, but we are still working," he said. "Scientifically, we want to make the most complete investigation possible."

The test results were based on analysis of mitochondrial DNA, the genetic material passed down only from mothers to children. That DNA is more stable than nuclear DNA - the material inherited from the father's side - especially when remains are badly damaged.

In this case, the bone fragments were so shattered and burned that Rogaev's team first had to determine whether enough uncontaminated genetic material still existed for testing.

The delicate work proved that, indeed, useful DNA could be extracted from a very small amount of the material - a critical fact, since they wanted to preserve as much of the bone fragments as possible out of respect for the victims.

The researchers also compared DNA from the remains with those of Empress Alexandra, who was a granddaughter of Britain's Queen Victoria and a distant relative of Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II.

With the mitochondrial analysis completed, the team is working on the nuclear DNA analysis and comparing the samples to paternal relatives of the czar's family.

That information, along with conclusions already delivered to the Russian prosecutors, eventually will be submitted to a professional journal for peer review and publication.

It was unclear if the Russian Orthodox Church will recognize them as genuine. The church's press service said no one could comment on Wednesday's announcement.

It was also unclear whether the descendants of the royal family would accept the identification. Lukyanov said neither he nor his clients had received confirmation.

Lukyanov's efforts to get the government to declare the royal family victims of political repression have been repeatedly rejected by Russian courts, which have said the family's killing was premeditated murder, not a political reprisal.

He said Russia had much to do to overcome its tortured past.

ments like blindness, deafness or cerebral palsy. About the same number had even more severe physical or mental disabilities.

Gestational age—the number of weeks from fertilization to birth—is closely connected to chances of survival. In the study, of babies with a gestational age of 22 weeks, 95 percent died. At 23 weeks, about three-quarters died. At 24 weeks, less than half died, and at 25 weeks, only about a quarter died.

Premature babies born at 24 weeks or older are routinely given intensive care, but smaller babies are handled case by case, said Dr. Judy Aschner, chief of neonatology at Vanderbilt University's children's hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

But gestational age is an imperfect measurement, often based on a mother's memory of her last period before a pregnancy began, and may be off by a week or two.

Some doctors said they were startled to see that certain factors equated to an extra week in the womb.

BEST SELLERS

Fiction

Unaccustomed Earth, by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf: \$25) Stories of American-born children and their Bengali parents straddling cultures.

Hollywood Crows, by Joseph Wambaugh (Little, Brown: \$26.99) Two cops become ensnared in a femme fatale's nasty divorce.

Lush Life, by Richard Price (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: \$26) The layered lives of victims and perpetrators are explored in the aftermath of a Manhattan shooting.

Where Are You Now? by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster: \$25.95) A law school grad seeks her missing brother, who may be linked to dark deeds.

Compulsion, by Jonathan Kellerman (Ballantine: \$27) A blood stain in a stolen luxury car sets Alex Delaware on the trail of a serial killer.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: \$24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

Armageddon in Retrospect, by Kurt Vonnegut (Putnam: \$24.95) A collection of the late author's unpublished short fiction.

Certain Girls, by Jennifer Weiner (Atria: \$26.95) Cannie Shapiro juggles her complicated life as her daughter is about to be bat mitzvahed.

The Appeal, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A billionaire tries to reverse a \$41-million jury verdict over toxic-waste dumping.

Winter Study, by Nevada Barr (Putnam: \$24.95) Park ranger Anna Pidgeon finds herself being stalked as she studies a wolf pack at Lake Superior.

Nonfiction

The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) The professor, who has terminal cancer, urges us to seize life's moments.

Home, by Julie Andrews (Hyperion: \$26.95) The star of stage and screen tells of life before Mary Poppins.

Beautiful Boy, by David Sheff (Houghton Mifflin: \$24) A father's struggle with his son's meth addiction.

40k, by Mary Roach (W.W. Norton: \$24.95) What science tells us about sex.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Girls Like Us, by Sheila Weller (Atria: \$27.95) Tracking a generation of women through icons Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon.

Ladies of Liberty, by Cokie Roberts (William Morrow: \$26.95) Portraits of the women who helped shape the young American nation.

Maps and Legends, by Michael Chabon (McSweeney's: \$24) The novelist defends his love of genre fiction, of comics, thrillers, horror and myth.

Why Good People Do Bad Things, by Debbie Ford (HarperOne: \$24.95) How not to be your worst enemy.

The Bin Ladens, by Steve Coll (Penguin: \$35) How the family of Osama bin Laden came to prominence and power in the Middle East. ((c) 2008 Los Angeles Times)

Four finalists remain on 'American Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)—Diamond wasn't Brooke White's best friend on "American Idol" Wednesday night.

The tearful 24-year-old folkster from Mesa, Ariz., was eliminated as the Fox show trimmed the competition to the top four finalists.

On Tuesday's show, aka Neil Diamond Night, White sang two songs by Diamond: "I'm a Believer" and "I Am ... I Said."

Simon Cowell called White's first performance "a nightmare," then heaped praise on her after her second act.

"This is the Brooke we like. Sitting behind the piano, singing a very good song," the snarky judge said. "It wasn't incredible, but it was a million times better than the first song. Well done."

White, who claimed never to have seen an R-rated movie, wiped away tears before her final performance. The former nanny told fans: "I just wanna say 'thank you.'"

The remaining "Idol" candidates—David Archuleta, David Cook, Jason Castro and Syesha Mercado (Wednesday night's other low vote-getter)—surrounded White on stage.

Cook, offering moral support, patted her on the back.

Earlier in the live telecast, Ryan Seacrest defended Paula Abdul against Internet chatter about her flub the night before: "Just for the record: The rumors - they're not true. She's part of our family, and we love her."

The host didn't explain what those "rumors" were, but said he'd been reading gossip online about Abdul. The "Idol" judge goofed on Tuesday night's performance show when she gave Castro feedback for two songs—even though he'd only sung one.

"American Idol" had switched up the format by making judges take notes and hold their appraisals until every contestant had performed. Abdul said later that she was thrown for a loop when producers apprised the judges of the change at the last minute.

Wednesday's show also featured performances by guest mentor Diamond and Natasha Bedingfield.



In this April 24, 2008 file photo, American Idol contestant Brooke White arrives at the Britweek launch party at the British Consul Generals' residence in Los Angeles.

Source: Cruise talks to Oprah about image, faith and family

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Cruise's two-part interview on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" includes a snowmobile ride and a frank discussion of his rocky media image, followed by an in-studio celebration of "Risky Business" 25 years ago, a person close to the production told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Cruise talks candidly with Winfrey about his personal life, said the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the show and requested anonymity. He discusses his childhood, life with wife Katie Holmes and their daughter Suri, Scientology and a 2005 appearance on "The Today Show" in which he criticized psychiatry and the use of anti-depressant drugs.

Cruise and Winfrey are longtime friends, but they have not seen each other since his infamous couch-jumping incident on her show three years ago, the person said. The actor is currently in talks to star in the fourth "Mission: Impossible" film.

For Friday's show, Winfrey interviewed the 45-year-old actor at his home in Telluride, Colo., where he shares personal photos and anecdotes with the talk-show queen. Monday's episode was taped in front of a studio audience and includes appearances by several celebrities who congratulate Cruise on a career that took off when he danced in his underwear in 1983's "Risky Business."

"In his 25 years in the business, Tom Cruise has become the epitome of a true Hollywood star," Warner Home Video senior vice president and general manager Jeff Baker said in a statement Wednesday. "We are very proud of this timeless classic and the film that became his breakthrough role."

The company plans to release a commemorative DVD of the film, a representative said.

Cruise can next be seen on the big screen in "Tropic Thunder," set for release in August.



A photo released by Harpo Productions Inc. show talk-show host Oprah Winfrey and actor Tom Cruise at Cruise's home in Telluride, Colo., on Friday, April 25, 2008, where Winfrey taped a one-on-one interview with Cruise for "The Oprah Winfrey Show" airing on Friday, May 2, 2008. Then, on Monday, May 5, Cruise will join Winfrey at her Chicago studio to celebrate his 25 years in films since his breakout role in "Risky Business."

Trucker or lover, Monaghan's in the driver's seat

By **PAUL BROWNFIELD**
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK—Three weeks after wrapping "Made of Honor," in which she plays the well-scrubbed best friend-true love of the equally well-scrubbed Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan got behind a big rig (sans makeup, save some bronzing) for the low-budget, independent film "Trucker."

The movie, which premiered last week at the Tribeca Film Festival, in search of distribution, was just the sort of no-frills experience "Made of Honor" was not.

"Made of Honor," a Sony release opening Friday, includes fancy costume changes and a scenic wedding at an idyllic castle on Scotland's Isle of Skye. Monaghan is the bride-to-be and, as the comedy-romance formula goes, the indefatigable best friend of the dashing, splendidly single Tom (Dempsey), who doesn't realize she's the one he wants until Hannah makes him her maid of honor.

"Trucker," filmed in part along California's Grapevine, took just 18 days

to shoot. In it, Monaghan plays Diane Ford, bitter and stubborn and fiercely solo. She does her long hauls, then comes home to sleep it off before doing it all over again. There are no Isle of Skye weddings, just one-night stands in motels and an estranged 11-year-old son who comes back into her life.

"She makes no apologies for herself," Monaghan said over breakfast recently in Manhattan. "She is what she is. She's OK with that. She's not a victim and that's really, really what I loved."

You could see Susan Sarandon playing a tough-minded female trucker in a film whose style, writer-director James Mottern said, was influenced by nuanced, beloved movies of the 1970s such as "The Last Detail" and "Five Easy Pieces."

Mottern said his female trucker character began with a woman he saw at a Southern California truck stop—a "beautiful woman, bleach blond ... skin tanned to leather, walked like a Teamster, blue eyes."

That's not Monaghan, freckle-faced, with brown hair, but what Mottern saw in the actress was a head on her shoulders and a sly danger. They met in the lobby of

a Beverly Hills hotel in 2006, when Monaghan was working on the Farrelly Brothers' remake of "The Heartbreak Kid."

"And, of course, she comes out and she's just a knockout," Mottern said. "But there's something very dangerous about her at the same time. Anything will come out of her mouth."

Still, Monaghan seems an unlikely choice for Diane. At 32, the former model from Iowa has more often been used in glam roles (she was the ingenue in the neo-noir "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang") or as girls next door (see "The Heartbreak Kid" or "Made of Honor").

But Mottern was impressed with her work in "North Country," where she played a female miner dealing with sexual harassment on the job opposite star Charlize Theron.

That role came to Monaghan after she lost out to Anne Hathaway for one of the co-starring parts in "Brokeback Mountain." The next week, she said, she got "North Country."

"Trucker" is a small film, and mostly a character piece, from a first-time feature director, but it's Monaghan's first starring role. For the movie, she got

her trucker's license and went on a few trips with female truck drivers.

"I sort of made a deal with myself, that if I wasn't able to get my license then I wasn't going to do the movie," she said.

The only trucks in "Made of Honor" are the ones that hauled the equipment to various locations. Here Monaghan is playing a familiar Hollywood role—the best friend of the confirmed bachelor (Dempsey) who can't see that the woman for him is standing right in front of him.

There is chemistry on-screen, though, and it is Monaghan's job to look pretty without seeming hot (not unlike in "Trucker," come to think of it).

But "Made of Honor" is Dempsey's movie, not Monaghan's -- he is, after all, McDreamy of the ABC hit "Grey's Anatomy." Even the billboard acknowledges Dempsey's drawing power over his co-star: His face occupies the frame, while hers is half out of it.

"Most women in America would prefer to see Patrick's face," Monaghan laughed. "His beautiful baby blues. Listen, I'm just happy to have half my face on it. It's a start, right?"



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Michelle Monaghan gets a high-profile turn in the Patrick Dempsey-laden comedy "Made of Honor."

Ono in fight over rarely seen Lennon video

BOSTON (AP)—They are rare, intimate images of John Lennon just before the breakup of the Beatles: He's hunched over a piano writing songs, smoking pot, joking about putting LSD in President Nixon's tea.

Almost four decades after the footage was shot at Lennon's estate in England, his widow is in court, fighting to keep the images private.

World Wide Video LLC, a Lawrence, Mass.-based company, claims it owns the 10 hours of raw footage, but Yoko Ono claims she is the rightful owner. World Wide Video has filed a federal lawsuit against Ono, claiming Ono's attempts to stop the company from publicly showing the footage is a copyright infringement.

At preliminary hearing in the case Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Boston, arguments on Ono's motion to dismiss were scheduled for May 21. Both sides also agreed not to show the film while the case is working through the courts.

The footage, which has never been shown publicly in its entirety, was shot Feb. 8-10, 1970, by Anthony Cox, Ono's husband before her marriage to Lennon in 1969.

It shows Lennon writing two songs that would later become hits—"Remember" and "Mind Games"—and shows him performing the song, "Instant Karma," according to a description in The Boston Globe, which was allowed to view the videotapes for a March 2007 story.

The footage also includes some tender moments, such as when Lennon blow-dries his wife's hair, and when Lennon and Ono play with Julian Lennon and Kyoko Cox, children from their previous marriages.



This undated file photo shows John Lennon.

AP

Lennon, who was 29 when the film was shot, also talks about the couple's drug use.

"We've resurrected hope in ourselves, and we're hoping to spread it around a bit—to tell people you can get off speed, you can get off H (heroin), you can get off pot. You know, because whatever they say, you do get hooked on it," Lennon says.

World Wide Video produced a two-hour documentary, "3 Days in the Life," using the footage, and planned to show it at a private school in Maine in 2007. The screening was scrapped after the company received a stop order from Ono's lawyers, claiming copyrighted ownership of the videotapes. The producers had previously shown excerpts from the film four times, including at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., and at entertainment and media conferences in New York and Connecticut.

Ray Thomas, executive producer of the documentary, said World Wide's principals are Beatles memorabilia collectors who hoped to show the film to high school and college students.

"We thought it would make a phenomenal educational and historic record for kids who didn't live in the '60s," Thomas said. "This is one of the greatest composers of the 20th century and you're getting an intimate look at his life—from blow-drying his wife's hair to playing with the cat to performing 'Instant Karma.'"

Ono's Boston lawyer, Jonathan Albano, declined to comment on the lawsuit.

In court documents, Ono said she had a "clear and absolute" agreement with Cox when he shot the footage that it would never be "commercially exhibited, commercially exploited or released."

And Ono said she purchased all rights to the videotapes for \$300,000 in 2002 from a broker, Anthony Pagola.

But the principals of World Wide Video—John Fallon and Robert Grenier—say the sale to Ono was invalid, and that it owns the videos and copyright after buying them from Cox for \$125,000 in 2000.

In its lawsuit, World Wide claims that shortly after its purchase, the tapes were stolen by a former employee, John Messina, whom World Wide later sued. World Wide claims in its suit that in a settlement agreement, Messina agreed to return copies of the tapes and to help them locate the original set of tapes.

Messina, who attended the court hearing Wednesday, vigorously denied stealing the tapes and said he believes Ono is the rightful owner.

"These are Yoko's private tapes," he said. "Why would a widow want to take pictures of private moments from a happier time and have them put out there for the public to see?"

Fallon and Grenier claim that in 2001, Pagola approached them and threatened to destroy the tapes unless World Wide agreed to let him be a broker who would find a buyer.

World Wide signed an agreement with Pagola, but said in its lawsuit that Pagola was to find a buyer "for the purpose of development and production of a full-length documentary motion picture."

Fallon and Grenier claim that Pagola sold the tapes and copyright to Ono without their permission and that he forged their signatures on the sale agreement.

Pagola, who is named as a defendant along with Ono in World Wide's lawsuit, could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday.

TMZ tags 14-year-old alleged sex crime victim

NEW YORK (AP)—Breaking with standards widely followed by the mainstream news media, the celebrity Web site TMZ posted a story Wednesday about a 14-year-old who's a movie star's son and an alleged sex crime victim, and it ran the boy's picture.

The story said the boy was in a relationship with a 22-year-old woman, whose ex-boyfriend tipped off police that she was having sex with a minor. Police have opened an investigation, the story said.

Almost all news organizations refrain from identifying sex crime victims, let alone show their picture, because of the stigma often attached to it, said Kelly McBride, ethics group leader at the journalism think tank Poynter Institute. The Associated Press' policy is not to identify people in such cases.

"The reason the story is even interesting to TMZ is because of who the child is," McBride said. "I'm not sure that alone is enough to justify" identifying the boy.

Harvey Levin, managing editor of TMZ, refused to speak about the decision to run the story.

"The story speaks for itself," he said through a spokeswoman.

The story was not reported on the Web site's syndicated television show.

TMZ is owned by Time Warner Inc., the media conglomerate which also owns Time Warner Cable, Warner Bros., the magazine publisher Time Inc. and a group of cable channels that includes HBO, CNN, TBS and TNT. A Time Warner spokesman referred calls on the matter to the company's Telepictures division, and a spokeswoman for Telepictures did not immediately return a call for comment.

If the victim in this case were a girl, McBride said she's not sure TMZ would have made the same decision.

"They think, 'Good for this boy, when any young boy has sex with an older woman it's not a crime,'" she said, "when of course it is. It's just as harmful for boys as it is for girls."

The Internet means that the gatekeepers who traditionally control the news are no longer in charge, said Jay Rosen, a New York University professor who runs the Web site Press Think.

In many cases, such as coverage of politics, that's a good thing, he added.

"This, to me, is not one of those cases," Rosen said. "There are very good reasons for keeping these names out of the news no matter how much interest there is in them."

McCready back to recording after Clemens report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Mindy McCready has "caught her breath" and gone back to work on a new album following her admission of a long-standing relationship with Roger Clemens, a representative for the country star said Wednesday.

"The first day was really difficult for her. She really has caught her breath," her management consultant, John Dotson, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "She did vocals yesterday and will do vocals today."

McCready told The New York Daily News on Monday that she "cannot refute anything" in the newspaper's original report posted Sunday night on its Web site. The story said Clemens and McCready met in a Florida karaoke bar when she was a 15-year-old aspiring singer and he was a 28-year-old pitcher for the Boston Red Sox and a married father of two.

"This is Roger's situation to deal with and we've come back to work," Dotson said. "We didn't go looking for this. They called us. We have a record to make and are in the middle of negotiating a deal on a reality show."

Citing anonymous sources, the newspaper said McCready went with Clemens to his hotel room after their first meeting, but that they did not have sex. The relationship turned intimate after she later moved to Nashville and be-

came a country star, the paper said.

Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin, confirmed that the pitcher and singer had known each other for a long time but told the newspaper that no sex was involved. At no time did Clemens engage in inappropriate or improper relationship with her, said Hardin, who described McCready as a longtime friend of Clemens and his family.



Still, the report could undermine Clemens' reputation, which is central to a defamation lawsuit he filed against former personal trainer Brian McNamee.

McNamee contends Clemens used performance-enhancing substances during his major league career.

The 32-year-old McCready came to Nashville in 1994 with tapes of her karaoke vocals and earned a contract

with BNA Records. Two years later, her song "Guys Do It All the Time" hit No. 1 on the country charts.

But her subsequent albums didn't sell as well, and she lost her record deal. Attempts to restart her career tanked.

McCready, who's currently signed to Denver-based Iconic Records, has had a string of legal and personal problems in recent years and was sentenced last September for violating probation from a 2004 drug arrest. She was released from jail Dec. 30.

The newspaper reported that Clemens sent cash to McCready to help her with legal issues and reached out to her when she was in jail.

Dotson said McCready will be meeting with a New York-based public relations firm this week to "see what to do next."

"We want to be sure we don't inadvertently do something wrong," he said.

This Aug. 22, 2006 file photo shows country singer Mindy McCready in Franklin, Tenn.

AP

Tina Turner says she's hitting the road again

CHICAGO (AP)—Tina Turner says she's hitting the road again for her first tour in the United States in seven years.

The 68-year-old singer announced on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that it will begin Oct. 1 in Kansas City. Tickets for Turner's tour go on sale May 12.



Turner

The R&B legend appeared with singer-actress Cher, 61, on an episode taped Saturday in Las Vegas before a crowd of 4,000 people. The broadcast is scheduled to air May 8.

Winfrey asked both women how they feel about getting older in show business, according to remarks released Wednesday in advance by Harpo Productions. "I think it sucks," said Cher. "That number doesn't mean a thing. It just doesn't," said Turner.

Judge tosses out suit against J.Lo

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge on Wednesday tossed out a lawsuit by a television writer who claimed Jennifer Lopez had a hand in stealing his idea for a TV series.

Writer Jack Bunick claimed in a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that the series "South Beach" that debuted in January 2006 was too similar to a plot he described in 1999 for a pilot episode of a show that would



Lopez

have been called "South Beach Miami." The lawsuit named Lopez, UPN, CBS Television and

others as defendants.

The show, which has since been canceled, aired on UPN. The show was described as being about best friends Matt and Vincent, who left their lives in Brooklyn to move to South Beach in hope of finding a better future.

U.S. District Judge Richard Berman said there's inadequate evidence to take the case to trial. The judge also noted that Bunick admits his scripts includes generic ideas and commonplace elements and aspects of the South Beach, Miami club and modeling scene.

The judge said there was "in fact ... powerful evidence" that the defendants had independently created "South Beach."

A lawyer for Lopez had said in court papers that although she was executive producer, Lopez was barely involved in the creation and development of "South Beach" and was only brought in at a later stage to "lend celebrity to the show."

Cher says she dated Tom Cruise

CHICAGO (AP)—Cher says she dated Tom Cruise when he was just a "shy boy." The singer-actress discussed the relationship on an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" taped Saturday in Las Vegas before a crowd of 4,000 people, according to Harpo Productions.

The episode, which also features Tina Turner, will air May 8.

Winfrey plans to feature Cruise during episodes airing Friday and Monday. She told Cher that when she was at Cruise's Colorado home recently, the actor stressed that Winfrey should say hello to Cher for him.

"So how much of a date was that?" Winfrey asked, according to advance remarks released Wednesday by Harpo Productions.

"Oh, that was a long date," Cher said. "Really. I lived in his apartment."

Cher is now 61, Cruise 45.

"He was so wonderful. And I was so crazy about him," said Cher, an Oscar, Emmy and Grammy winner who has released 25 albums that have sold more than 100 million copies. "And he was so, like, different. He was a shy boy. He didn't have any money."

It was unclear from the remarks released by Harpo exactly when the relationship took place.

But in a similar interview



AP
In this Feb. 10, 2008 file photo, Cher is seen on stage at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

in February to "Entertainment Tonight" Cher indicated it was after Cruise made "Risky Business," in 1983 but before "The

Color of Money," in 1986. She also talked about the relationship in February to "Good Morning America."

Studios not willing to accept demands by actors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Major Hollywood studios said Wednesday they won't accept pay hikes sought by the Screen Actors Guild in contract talks, suggesting a deal is unlikely before the talks temporarily end later this week.

In a statement posted on its Web site, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers said significant gaps remain between the two sides after 13 days of talks.

The alliance blamed the problems on the guild's insistence on doubling payments that actors receive from DVD sales and demands for "huge increases in compensation and benefits."

The guild responded late in the day with a message to its members saying a deal did not depend entirely on acceptance of those demands. It also stood by its earlier claims that actors were suffering.

"We are not surprised that the employers dispute the economic hardships actors are facing. You know better," the guild said.

The statements were the most public sign thus far of discord in the talks aimed at reaching an agreement before the current contract covering theatrical movies and primetime TV shows expires June 30.

The negotiations "are going nowhere," said Norman Samnick,

an entertainment lawyer who has represented Warner Bros. in previous contract talks with actors and remained close to negotiations. "This thing's not going to be settled until the end of June."

Both sides have said they want to avoid a replay of the 100-day writers strike that shut down TV production and caused an estimated \$2.5 billion in economic losses in the Los Angeles area.

The situation has already caused a delay in the filming of some new movies, as producers worry that a possible strike could disrupt shooting, according to a person familiar with the issue who was not authorized to speak publicly and sought anonymity.



PRICEY ART

Sotheby's British paintings specialists Emmeline Hallmark, left, and Henry Wemyss look at Joseph Mallord William Turner's painting "Pope's Villa at Twickenham" at the auction house's offices in London, Thursday April 24, 2008. The piece is estimated to fetch 5-7 million pounds (US\$ 9.88 -13.83 million) when it is sold in London on July 9.

Wife in mixed marriage feels wrath of husband's family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Vincent," and I have been together for 10 years. We have two beautiful children, a good marriage and a close bond with my family.

Vincent's family disowned him when he married me because of my race, and he's now starting to feel the full emotional impact. He is angry and disappointed with his family, but I know he misses them terribly. I have been called every name in the book by his mother, ignored by his siblings and brought to tears by his father's hateful words. I refuse to expose our children to that kind of treatment, so I have not pushed Vincent to contact his family, even though I feel he should try.

Abby, his family grew up hating minorities, and I doubt they have changed since we last spoke. What can I do to help my husband though this without exposing myself and the children to their ignorance and bigotry? I know our kids will face this issue sometime, but it shouldn't come from family.

—UNACKNOWLEDGED IN ARIZONA

DEAR UNACKNOWLEDGED: I agree that it shouldn't come from family. So just listen when your husband vents, because his anger and disappointment are justified. Do not push him to contact his family. They are so vested in their bias that it's unlikely they will change.

Vincent made his choice 10 years ago, and he chose you. And that is why, rather than dwelling on the past, he should focus his energies on creating a successful and fulfilling future with you, his beautiful children and the family who has embraced him.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife has a terminal illness, and we have begun the unpleasant task of making final arrangements. Our children are all in their teens.

Our youngest, "Mitch," is 15 and does not want to attend his mother's funeral. He says he would rather remember her as she is now instead of in a casket.

I know funerals are good for people because they give a sense of closure, but if Mitch doesn't want to go, I'm not sure I should press the issue. Can you please advise?

—SAD DAD IN ARIZONA

DEAR SAD DAD: My heart goes out to your family at this difficult time. I'm glad you wrote, because I, too, have reservations about pressuring your son. This is a decision that he will have to arrive at on his own.

However, no law dictates that he would have to see his mother lying in the casket. It is my understanding that private farewells can be made with the casket open or closed. Please explain this to him. Also, when the time comes, he may change his mind and want to see her. It's a very personal decision.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Mara," has a temper. When she gets mad at our mom and stepfather, she goes into our room and slams the door as hard as she can. It has started to damage the door and walls, and they're fed up with it.

Our stepfather told Mara that if she does not stop it, he will take the door off. If it was just her, I would say she deserves it. But, it's my room, too, and it will take away MY privacy. Shouldn't he find some other type of punishment so I won't have to suffer, too?

—NOT MY FAULT IN MAINE

DEAR NOT YOUR FAULT: Yes, in fairness, he should. Surely, with enough ingenuity, your parents can think of a penalty designed "just for her"—such as revoking her phone privileges, docking her allowance or grounding her—that won't penalize an innocent bystander. (That's you.)

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

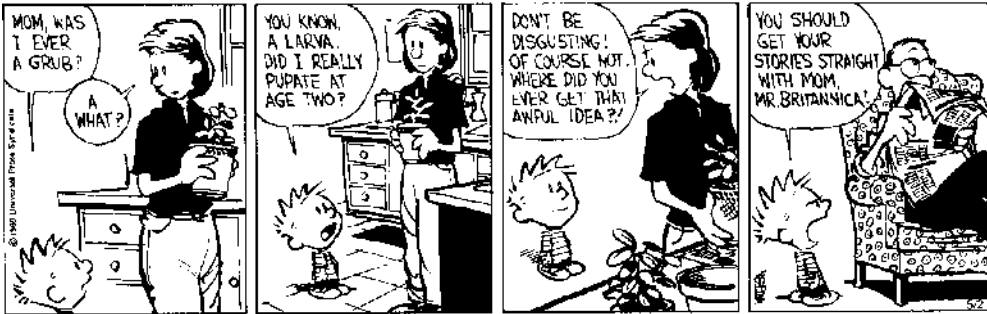
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

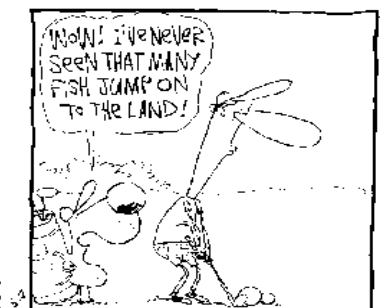
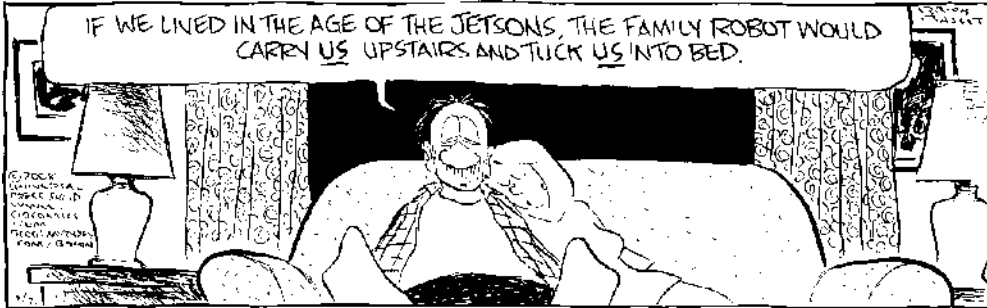


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Corical
- 2 Conway
- 3 Silly fool
- 4 Teensy bit
- 5 Spoon-bender
- 6 Geller
- 7 Affluent
- 8 Sweat outlet
- 9 Discuss
- 10 Fishing line
- 11 holder
- 12 False
- 13 Subma-chine
- 14 gun
- 15 Chances, for short
- 16 Inaccess-ible
- 17 by elevator
- 18 Part of an act
- 19 Suitcase
- 20 Blond shade
- 21 Cupid's field
- 22 Rogers or Campan-ella
- 23 Defen-dant's answer
- 24 Forcman foe

DOWN

- 1 Journey segment
- 2 Sharp turn
- 3 Hardy cabbage
- 4 Doesn't waste
- 5 Wonderful in rapspeak
- 6 Bedframe piece
- 7 Pop choice
- 8 Satan's specialty
- 9 Carton made of cables
- 10 Ad for an upcoming event
- 11 Enjoyment
- 12 -Barre, Pa.
- 13 Savalas role
- 14 Flimsy wood
- 15 Ellipse
- 16 Actress Campbell
- 17 Bit of sediment
- 18 "That's —, officer!"
- 19 Commo-tion
- 20 Lair
- 21 Gorilla

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	R	A	G	U	E	S	T	S	H	I	D
A	P	P	L	E	J	A	C	K	D	O	
R	E	S	E	T	A	E	X	P	E	L	
M	A	M	A	R	Y	I					
O	F	F	S	M	I	C	Z	A	P	S	
A	T	I	A	S	H	C	A	P			
F	R	A	T	S	T	Y	O	K	R	A	
P	E	S	K	Y	P	D					
R	A	J	A	H	M	U	D	P	I	E	
G	V	A	U	N	I	O	N	A	C	K	
S	E	C	O	P	A	O	G	E	E		
A	H	K	K	N	O	I	U	B	E	S	

Yesterday's answer 5-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lily Allen, 23; David Beckham, 33; Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, 36; Bianca Jagger, 63

Happy Birthday: Trust in yourself and do your own research and no one can take advantage of you this year. Emotional issues will crop up with peers and loved ones, so deal with each matter before it escalates. Travel and communication will play an important role. Diligence and determination will be key to your success. Your numbers are 12, 17, 28, 32, 39, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do things on your own rather than waiting for someone else and becoming impatient, frustrated and angry. Finish whatever needs to be done; allowing other people to help will slow you down today. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't wait for things to come to you when all you have to do is execute your plans. Love and romance should also be on your agenda. If you aren't in a relationship, actively search for one. If you are, show how much you care. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't leave too much to the imagination or you may find yourself in an emotional mess. Don't point your finger at someone if you don't have all the facts. You are likely to become jealous or make someone else feel that way. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your emotions will run wild if you let them. Before you plan to take on the world or to blame someone for something, take a look at the reper-

cussions. Lend a helping hand, observe what's really going on and think before you act. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel to a destination you know will be conducive to romance. The way you structure things will make or break how they turn out. A day trip will spark enthusiasm in a new venture that could make you some extra cash. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Surround yourself with friends, family or people who interest you. Plan a party or travel to a place that offers you the activities you like. Do things that will enhance your looks or give you a new image or style. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speak up as honestly as possible. If you withhold information or try to get away with something, you will find the situation you face impossible. Honesty may hurt but it will help you resolve issues. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Rushing here and there will pay off. You will find what you want and meet people who can help you out. Sticking around home will bring nothing but contempt and frustration. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Decide what changes you want to make before you start. You have to make your space user-friendly and convenient in order to expand your horizons and experiment with new projects, lifestyles and beliefs. Follow your heart. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Give something new a try and you'll have a

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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new hobby. Get serious about your future, your security and your love life. It's time to either re-new your vows or let the love of your life know how you feel. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a little time for yourself. You need to ease your tension and rejuvenate your spirit. Too much talk or interaction with people who are always criticizing you will deplete your confidence when you need it most. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be emotional, making it difficult to keep a secret. The problem is with you, not the people around you. You have more support than you realize and a very forgiving group around you that deserves the same in return. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a hard worker who is thoughtful and always has a motive and a cause in mind. You are aggressive and an advocate for justice and fair play.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8						7		
9	1						5	3	
			6		2				
		9	7		1	6			
		2	8		3	4			
			1		8				
8	9						1	4	
	5						6		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	5	4	6	9	2	1	3
3	4	9	2	5	1	8	6	7
1	2	6	3	8	7	9	5	4
4	1	8	9	3	5	7	2	6
9	5	3	7	2	6	4	8	1
2	6	7	8	1	4	5	3	9
6	9	2	1	4	8	3	7	5
5	8	4	6	7	3	1	9	2
7	3	1	5	9	2	6	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/42
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

BORING PHONE CALLS Solutions: 8 letters

P	I	T	C	H	Y	R	A	F	R	D	N	V	C	S
R	C	D	O	Z	I	N	G	N	O	L	O	U	T	
A	R	E	A	P	R	E	A	C	H	I	I	S	O	
T	A	E	L	M	I	E	P	A	C	E	I	E	R	
T	W	A	K	B	R	O	C	S	E	N	S	A	S	O
I	I	A	T	I	B	N	S	T	I	I	S	U	M	I
F	I	F	S	T	A	A	O	N	D	F	R	R	F	S
N	N	E	V	T	E	T	B	T	I	E	E	V	R	O
S	G	T	C	I	E	N	I	O	P	V	E	E	L	
S	L	A	M	S	T	I	T	M	T	N	N	Y	R	I
E	L	D	E	A	L	A	D	I	E	O	O	S	U	C
L	T	L	I	Y	D	U	L	L	O	I	C	U	T	I
E	A	O	N	O	G	Q	O	E	G	N	A	H	S	T
S	O	U	N	D	V	C	C	Y	H	A	E	W	E	O
U	I	E	L	E	M	A	R	K	E	I	N	G	H	

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Accurance, Attention, Avoid, Babble, Boes, Call, Client, Cold, Conversation, Crawling, Customer, Date, Deal, Dazing, Dreary, Dull, Gesture, Hang, Idiot, Limit, Long, Monotonous, Pace, Patch, Prattle, Preach, Relative, Sales, Sell, Sleep, Solicitor, Sound, Stories, Surveys, Talker, Telemarketing, Time, Tone, Topics, Useless, Voice, Waste, Worry
Yesterday's Answer: Hydrant
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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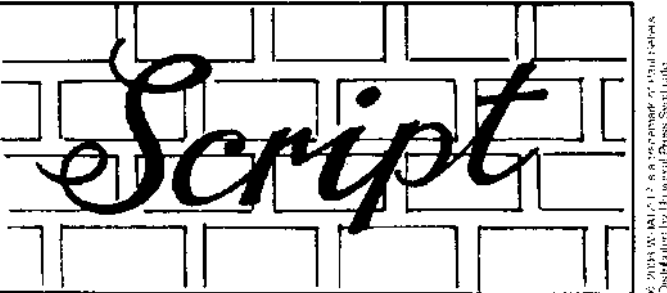
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Interested applicants must submit their
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**ALL INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY APPLY IN PERSON AT THE
J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES, INC. HUMAN RESOURCE DEPT.
LOCATED ON THE 2nd FLOOR OF JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER, SUSUPE**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO : CIVIL
FINANCIAL : ACTION
SAIPAN, INC., : NO. 07-154

Plaintiff, :

-v- :

EDWIN B. CAMACHO and :
MARIA FE D. CAMACHO :

Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that,
pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in
this matter on November 19, 2007, I will
sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder,
on the terms and conditions set forth
hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and
interest of Defendant in and to the following
property: Lot No. 002 G 116, situated in
Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands,
as more particularly described on
Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03, the
original of which was recorded May 14,
1991, as December No. 90-1900 at the
Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The
sale will be held on Wednesday, May 7,
2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law
Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten
Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana
Islands. The sale will be open to the general
public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The
Terms and Conditions of Sale may be
obtained from the undersigned, either prior
to or at the sale. These terms and conditions
shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAMES MACKLIN,) FCD-DI
) CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION
) NO.
vs.) 08-0157

LIAO SHA,) AMENDED
) SUMMONS
Respondent,)

TO: LIAO SHA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
and notified to file any answer you wish to
make to the Complaint, a copy of which is
given to you herewith, within twenty (20)
days after service of the Summons upon you,
and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer
to James Macklin whose address is P. O. Box
503597, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as
practicable after filing your answer or
sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.
Your answer should be in writing and
filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe,
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for
you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of
this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not
necessary for you to appear personally until
further notice. If you fail to file and answer
in accordance with this summons, judgment
by default may be taken against you for the
relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Mavericks fire Johnson after another playoff flop



DALLAS (AP)—From the start, Avery Johnson was a perfect fit as coach of the Dallas Mavericks. At the end, it was pretty obvious he wasn't. Johnson lost his job Wednesday, a move the team referred to as "relieving him of his duties."

The softer tone made sense considering that in three-plus seasons Johnson guided the Mavericks to the finals for the first time and to a club-record 67 wins the following season.

Yet for all the high points, there were some serious lows—blowing a 2-0 lead in those finals, getting dumped in the first round of the playoffs after that 67-win season and then, the final straw, getting knocked out in the first round again this season after Dallas shook up its roster and mortgaged some of its future to acquire Jason Kidd.

Over those three straight post-season wipeouts, the Mavericks lost 12 of 15 games, including all nine on the road.

"Was it time for a change? I guess," said Dirk Nowitzki, who became the league MVP under Johnson's watch. "I think this franchise, we owe him a lot. Unfortunately it's just one of those situations where everybody's got to move on."

The final mark during Johnson's tenure: 194-70 in the regular season, 23-24 in the playoffs.

Johnson got the news during a meeting at his condominium Wednesday morning. Donnie Nelson, the team's president of basketball operations, was there, while team owner Mark Cuban joined via cell phone from Chicago.

Johnson flew to Houston soon after because his son had an accident at school. He will meet with reporters Thursday, but called in to the local ESPN affiliate, KESN, to talk about his dismissal.

"This is something that needed to happen," Johnson said. "There's no animosity or bitterness. We all still really care about each other, but it was time to go in a different direction. ... We didn't win the championship, but if you look at the whole body of work that we put together over the last 3 1/2 years ... we'll put it up against anybody."

Johnson might not be unemployed very long. The New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls are among the teams needing coaches, and both might want a young, proven coach who preaches defense and discipline.

What will Cuban do?

It's hard to guess because he's never really hired anyone, inheriting Don Nelson when he bought the team and then agreeing with Nelson to groom Johnson.

Paul Westphal was on Johnson's staff and Del Harris remains



Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson watches his team's 99-94 loss to the New Orleans Hornets in Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, in New Orleans on Tuesday, April 29, 2008. The Hornets won the series 4-1.

on the payroll as a consultant. Jeff Van Gundy and Rick Carlisle are other experienced coaches who could be interested, if Cuban is. Phoenix's Mike D'Antoni also

would be an intriguing option if he loses his job.

Whoever takes over will get a roster of expensive, aging players. The Mavs need to get younger

and more athletic, but don't have a first-round pick or much room under the salary cap.

But Dallas does have two commodities that any coach

would love to have: Nowitzki and Kidd.

While Nowitzki turns 30 this summer and Kidd just turned 35, both are coming off All-Star seasons. Kidd has a player option for next season, but it's for \$21 million, more than he'd get on the open market.

"It's not at the point of pulling the plug on this," Kidd said. "I think we have a chance to be very successful, so I look forward to the challenge next year."

Cuban certainly will ask all candidates how they will get the most out of Kidd, something Johnson struggled to do.

The Mavs were 35-18 before giving up young point guard Devin Harris and a package of players and picks for Kidd. They went 16-13 after he arrived—17-17 counting the playoffs.

"We probably could have opened it up a little more, have a little more free flow, let Jason create and not just make him a weakside spot-up shooter," Nowitzki said. "But, you know, Avery had us believing in the system, and that's the way he thought we could be the most efficient."

Nowitzki hopes the next coach retains at least some of Johnson's emphasis on defense.

"You don't basically want to go back to the Nellie days where we just run and gun and have fun, and you get scored on every time down," Nowitzki said.

Nelson turned the Mavericks from lottery regulars to playoff regulars, then to title contenders. He just couldn't get them to the finals.

Johnson did.

A championship-winning point guard for San Antonio during his long career, Johnson

became Dallas' coach-in-waiting in 2004-05. His wait ended just a few months later. He finished that regular season 16-2, then won his first playoff series. Then, in his first full season in charge, the Mavericks reached the NBA finals and Johnson was named coach of the year.

When the Heat won four straight after losing the first two, there was talk of Pat Riley out-coaching Johnson and of Johnson panicking during the series by switching hotels in Miami. More talk of getting outcoached came up after the 67-win season went down in flames to, of all people, Nelson.

The knock this time was mostly over his use of Kidd. He and Cuban even had a shouting match in the coach's office following a home loss to the Lakers.

Johnson's rift with his club was apparent during the five-game series against the New Orleans Hornets.

Down 2-0, he said to blame him, but it came off as sarcastic because he added it was his fault the players were missing layups, free throws and defensive assignments. Then, after losing Game 4, Johnson canceled an off-day practice, but the players went through a workout anyway—without the coaches.

Now, those players will be answering to a new coach.

"We're just at a stumbling block, at a standstill," Jason Terry said. "I guess management's going to take a look at us and see what pieces we need and see where we go from here. ... You know they're going to make some moves, there's no doubt. But the backcourt looks solid and you've got the big German. That's not a bad place to start."

Butler's basket helps Wizards win Game 5 in Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP)—Caron Butler saved Washington's season. Butler made a layup with 3.9 seconds left and the Wizards held their breath as LeBron James missed a potential series-ending layup at the horn, giving Washington an 88-87 victory Wednesday night and adding at least one more game to this overheated NBA playoff series.

After Butler scored on a drive past James, the Cavs had one more chance but their superstar couldn't get a banked runner to drop and the Wizards headed home for Game 6 on Friday night down 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

Butler scored 32 points and DeShawn Stevenson had 17 for the Wizards, who played without guard Gilbert Arenas. Agent Zero announced before the game that his season was over because of a bothersome knee. Arenas' absence figured to be the decisive blow for the Wizards, but they fought to the finish and, at least for now, prevented the Cavs from ending their season for the third straight year.

James scored 34 points—24

in the second half—but was unable to make a final shot in traffic that would have sent the Wizards, who began talking trash weeks ago and haven't stopped, quietly into the summer. The Cavaliers led by five with 1:47 left, but Washington scored the final six points to end a five-game playoff losing streak in Cleveland.

The Cavaliers were keen on closing out the Wizards. Last year in the playoffs, Cleveland led New Jersey 3-1 and failed to put away the Nets before finally doing it on the road. The Cavs seemed to have learned their lesson and took an 87-82 lead on Delonte West's three-point play with 1:47 to go.

Butler scored on a layup sandwiched between two missed 3-pointers by Cleveland, and Antonio Daniels hit two free throws to pull the Wizards within 87-86 with 43 seconds left. Joe Smith then missed a short inside shot and Zydrunas Ilgauskas couldn't steer in a tip.

Following a timeout, the Wizards cleared the floor for Butler, who burst past James and got an

arching layup that danced briefly on the rim to fall.

Washington has been beaten by so many last-second shots from Cleveland in the playoffs, and as James drove by Stevenson to the basket on the Cavs' last possession, it looked as if the Wizards were going to go down in heart-breaking fashion again.

But James, who was bumped by Darius Songaila, didn't come through and Stevenson, whose running feud has been one of the subplots in a series as juicy as a day-time TV soap, ran to mid-court and celebrated the Wizards' good luck.

This series has had it all: trash talk, villains, heroes, rap stars and, of course, the Stevenson vs. James feud that seems personal and professional. And now, it will continue.

Arenas was casually sitting in a chair in Washington's locker room discussing a recent movie he had seen, when he stunningly announced his lost season was over. The three-time All-Star, who missed 66 regular-season games following knee surgery, played in the first four games in

the series despite a painful deep bone bruise.

But he wasn't himself, and Arenas decided to start getting ready for next season a little early.

His teammates had other plans.

On Tuesday, the Wizards were visited by Abe Pollin, their 84-year-old owner who talked to them about past playoff successes and failures. Pollin spoke of times when Washington has overcome 3-1 deficits, and the Wizards have a chance to do it again.

The Cavaliers reeled off 11 straight points in the third quarter to open a 59-53 lead, but the Wizards regrouped as Butler and Antawn Jamison made 3-pointers in a 16-6 run that put Washington ahead 69-65 entering possibly its final 12 minutes of the season.

As if on cue, the Wizards and Cavaliers were at each other's throats early.

With 3:20 left in the first quarter, James was fouled on a baseline drive by Songaila, whose left forearm caught James on the chin. James threw his head back and Songaila was assessed a tech-

nical foul for the latest rough foul of the series.

Both teams barked at each other and Stevenson and Anderson Varejao drew "Ts" for too much banter.

Butler scored 14 points in the first quarter on 5-of-6 shooting, forcing the Cavaliers to make a defensive switch and put James on the forward.

Celtics 110, Hawks 85

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored a playoff-high 22 points to lead Boston to a victory over Atlanta that gave the Celtics a 3-2 lead in their series.

Ray Allen hit three 3-pointers in the middle of the third quarter to turn back the Hawks' last charge, and put the Celtics one game away from advancing to the second playoff round.

The first five games have all gone to the home team, with Game 6 in Atlanta on Friday. A seventh game, if necessary, would be played in Boston on Sunday, an advantage the Celtics earned with their NBA-best 66-16 record in the regular season.

Lee wins 5th straight start as Indians down Mariners



CLEVELAND (AP)—Pitcher Cliff Lee won his fifth straight start to lead the Cleveland Indians to an 8-3 win over the Seattle Mariners in the American League on Wednesday.

Lee's consecutive scoreless innings streak ended at 27 when he gave up a three-run homer in the seventh. It raised his ERA from 0.28 to 0.96, still the lowest in the majors.

Lee was pulled after the homer, the only runs he allowed in six innings. The left-hander has given up just four earned runs in 37 2-3 innings in his five starts.

Red Sox 2, Blue Jays 1

In Boston, the home side edged Toronto to record successive wins in its last at-bat.

Manny Ramirez slid in just ahead of the tag on Jason Varitek's single in the ninth. Ramirez barely beat the throw from center field. The Red Sox also beat the Blue Jays 1-0 on Tuesday with an RBI single in the ninth.

Rays 8, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Tampa Bay downed Baltimore to complete its first winning record in April in franchise history.

Rays starter Andy Sonnanstine allowed one run in eight innings, with a season-high five strikeouts, to win his third straight start. He became the first Tampa Bay pitcher to win four games in April.

Erik Hinske homered for the Rays, who have won seven of eight to finish 14-12 in April. Tampa Bay has never been three games over .500 this late in a season.

Tigers 6, Yankees 2

In New York, Placido Polanco homered twice to lead Detroit over New York.

Marcus Thames also went deep off Yankees starter Andy Pettitte, as Detroit continued its recovery after losing its opening seven games of the season.

Slumping New York, which lost star

third baseman Alex Rodriguez before the game for a 15-day spell on the disabled list, managed just two hits after the first inning. The Yankees have scored just 15 runs in their past five games.

Twins 4, White Sox 3.

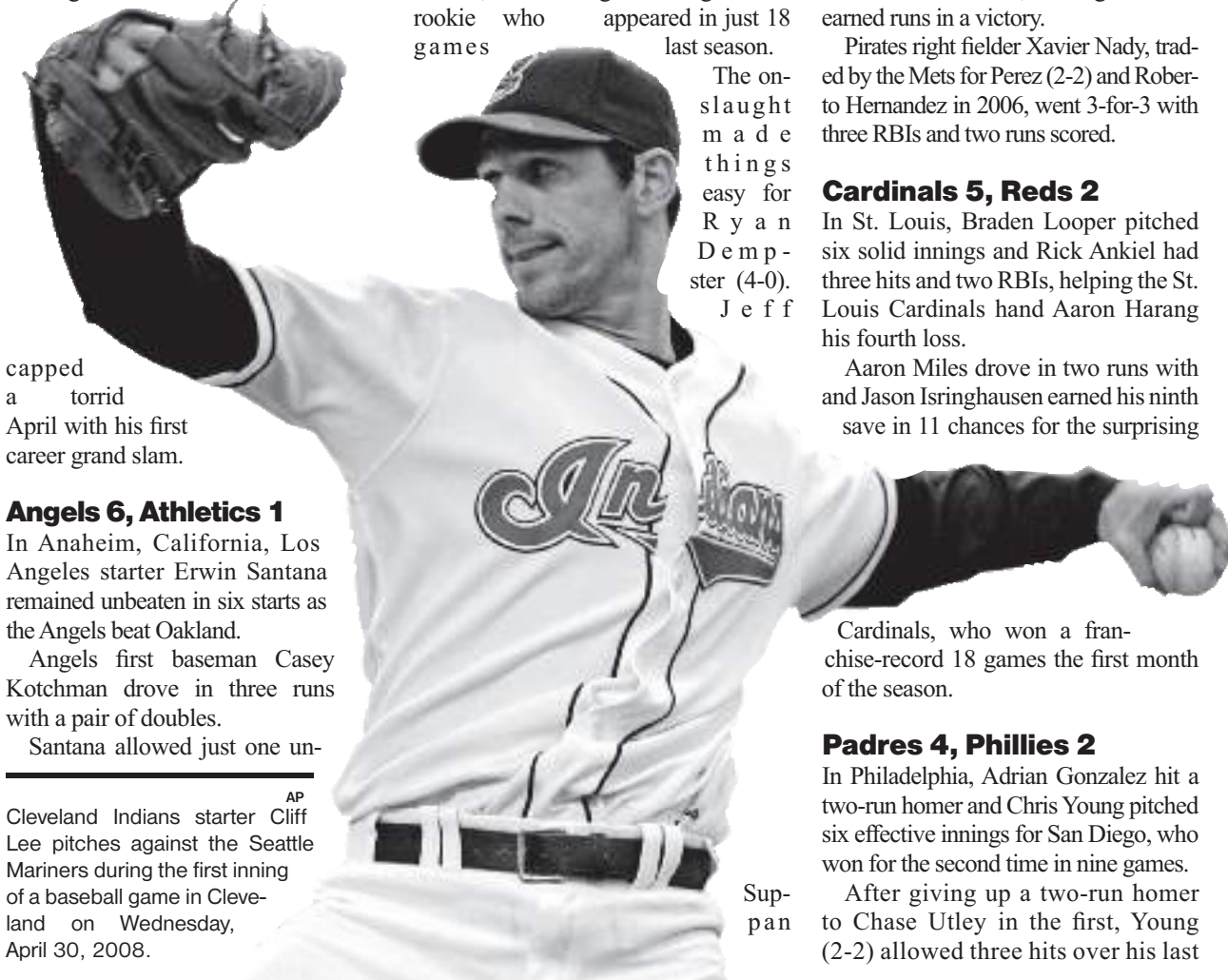
In Minneapolis, Justin Morneau came through with yet another clutch hit for Minnesota as it downed Chicago.

Morneau hit a two-out RBI double in the seventh inning to give the Twins a winning edge.

Rangers 11, Royals 9

In Arlington, Texas, the home side hit a season-high five runs to down Kansas City.

Rangers center fielder Josh Hamilton



capped a torrid April with his first career grand slam.

Angels 6, Athletics 1

In Anaheim, California, Los Angeles starter Erwin Santana remained unbeaten in six starts as the Angels beat Oakland.

Angels first baseman Casey Kotchman drove in three runs with a pair of doubles.

Santana allowed just one un-

Cleveland Indians starter ^{AP} Cliff Lee pitches against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of a baseball game in Cleveland on Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

earned run over 6 2-3 innings. He has allowed only one earned run in his past 30 innings against the A's.

Cubs 19, Brewers 5

In Chicago, Geovany Soto hit two three-run homers and Chicago pounded the Milwaukee Brewers with prospective owner Mark Cuban watching from the current owners' seats.

It was the Cubs' biggest outburst since a 20-1 whipping of the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 5, 2001. And the Brewers had not allowed that many since they gave up 19 at Colorado last Aug. 8.

The Cubs scored six runs each in the first and eighth innings while batting around, and leading the charge was a rookie who appeared in just 18 games last season.

The onslaught was easy for Ryan Dempster (4-0). Jeff

(1-1) didn't finish the fourth inning.

Nationals 3, Braves 2

In Washington, Felipe Lopez's bases-loaded hit to left with no outs in the 12th lifted Washington to a victory and dropped Atlanta to 0-9 in games decided by a run.

The Nationals, meanwhile, have their first three-game winning streak since opening the season 3-0. They fell behind 2-1 in the 12th on Mark Kotz's RBI single off Saul Rivera (3-1), who nonetheless earned the win with two innings of relief.

Pirates 13, Mets 1

In New York, the Pittsburgh Pirates took advantage of a sloppy performance by the New York Mets, scoring nine unearned runs in a victory.

Pirates right fielder Xavier Nady, traded by the Mets for Perez (2-2) and Roberto Hernandez in 2006, went 3-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs scored.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2

In St. Louis, Braden Looper pitched six solid innings and Rick Ankiel had three hits and two RBIs, helping the St. Louis Cardinals hand Aaron Harang his fourth loss.

Aaron Miles drove in two runs with and Jason Istringhausen earned his ninth save in 11 chances for the surprising

Cardinals, who won a franchise-record 18 games the first month of the season.

Padres 4, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer and Chris Young pitched six effective innings for San Diego, who won for the second time in nine games.

After giving up a two-run homer to Chase Utley in the first, Young (2-2) allowed three hits over his last

five innings, striking out six and walking three.

Tadahito Iguchi had four hits and drove in a run for San Diego.

Joe Thatcher and Heath Bell each pitched a scoreless inning and Trevor Hoffman got his fifth save in seven opportunities with a scoreless ninth. Jamie Moyer (1-2) gave up nine hits and four runs in 5 1-3 shaky innings.

Dodgers 13, Marlins 1

In Miami, Chad Billingsley pitched seven innings to win for the first time this season and Rafael Furcal had a career-high five hits for Los Angeles over Florida.

Furcal went 5-for-6 with a double, giving him 17 extra-base hits, the most by a Dodger at the end of April since the team moved to Los Angeles in 1958. Furcal's average rose to .381.

Billingsley (1-4) allowed three hits and one run to lower his ERA from 6.53 to 5.20. He had eight strikeouts, giving him 40 in 27 2-3 innings.

Diamondbacks 8, Astros 7

In Phoenix, pitcher Micah Owings' pinch-hit homer off Dave Borkowski (0-2) tied the game in the sixth and Arizona rallied from four runs down to beat Houston.

Chris Young followed with a double, then scored the go-ahead run on Eric Byrnes' single.

The Astros led 6-2 after two innings against Randy Johnson. Houston scored four in the first, three on Carlos Lee's sixth home run of the season.

Giants 3, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Jose Castillo ended a 450 at-bat homerless drought with a tiebreaking shot to lead off the seventh inning and Fred Lewis preserved the lead with a diving catch in the eighth for the Giants.

Castillo's homer to left field off Ryan Speier (0-1) was his first since Aug. 14, 2006, for Pittsburgh against Milwaukee.

BCS rejects plan to turn system into 4-team playoff



HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP)—Even a three-game playoff was too much for the BCS. Bowl Championship Series

officials rejected a plan Wednesday to turn the much-criticized system for deciding a national champ into a playoff involving four teams, starting in the 2010 season.

The BCS format will remain the same until at least the 2014 season.

"After a very thorough, very good discussion among the group, we have decided that because we feel at this time the BCS is in an unprecedented state of health, we feel it's never been healthier during its first decade, we have made a decision to move forward in the next cycle with the current format," Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford said.

During five hours of meetings, Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive presented a plan for a plus-one format, matching the No. 1 team in the nation against No. 4, and No. 2 vs. No. 3 in the marquee bowl games. The winners would meet about

a week later in the BCS title game. The plan also called for creating a sixth BCS game.

In the end, only the SEC and ACC wanted to even continue the discussion of the plus-one.

"I'm not unhappy," Slive said after those meetings with the 10 other conference commissioners and Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White at a resort hotel. "There's no such thing as standing pat. I think we've done a service (by presenting the plan for a plus-one). We owed the fans and media an explanation as to why we're not moving ahead."

"I can't say I'm surprised. There is a bit of disappointment."

There was no vote taken, the commissioners said, but the leaders of the Big East, Big 12, Pac-10 and Big Ten made it clear they didn't want to move the BCS toward a playoff in any way.

Any change would've needed approval by university presidents.

In the current BCS format, the top two teams in the BCS standings—which use polls and computer ratings to grade teams—after the regular season are matched in the title game.

The idea behind the plus-one is to alleviate some of the controversy by sending four teams into the postseason with a chance to win the national championship.

The BCS has two years left on its current four-year, \$320 million TV deal with Fox. Negotiations will likely begin in the fall on a new contract with Fox that'll probably run through the 2013 season and lock in the current format.

The decision to shelve the plus-one came as no surprise. It was a long shot to survive, at best.

Coming into the meetings, Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany and Pac-10 commissioner Tom Hansen had said they were opposed to the seeded plus-one format Slive was to present.

On Wednesday, Big East commissioner Mike Tranchese and Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe, for the first time, made it known publicly that their leagues also were against even the smallest possible playoff.

"There's a strong sense in that room of the slippery slope view that there's never been a collegiate or professional playoff that's stopped at four teams," Delany said.

Tranchese said he favored an unseeded version of a plus-one, which would set the championship game matchup after the four major bowls are played using the BCS standings, over seeding the top four and playing them off.

"The seeded model looked like a playoff, and we don't think a playoff is in the best interest of college football," he said.

The Big Ten and Pac-10's relationship with the Rose Bowl has always been viewed as the major hurdle to changing the BCS. Turns out it was far from the only obstacle.

College football's leaders are concerned a playoff would turn football into a two-semester sport and lessen the importance of a regular season that now has a do-or-die feel to it from week to week.

The Bowl Championship Series was implemented in 1998 after the Big Ten, Pac-10 and Rose Bowl agreed to join with the other four major conferences and three marquee bowls to create an annual national title game involving the top two teams in the country after the regular season.

While the BCS has created championship games that never would have happened under the old bowl system, it's been far from perfect. For the many college football fans desperate to see a playoff that would crown a more definitive champion, the BCS has been a target for their angst.

Almost every season, there's been some dispute leading into the championship game about whether the BCS selected the two most deserving teams.

Undefeated Auburn, from the SEC, being left out in 2004 in favor of Southern California and Oklahoma was what first got Slive thinking that No. 1 vs. No. 2 might not be enough.

Last year, Georgia fans were the loudest to complain when the Bulldogs passed over for the BCS title game in favor of LSU and Ohio State.

Of course, Slive's plus-one wouldn't have solved last year's problems. Georgia, which finished second in the nation in the AP poll behind LSU, was ranked fifth in the BCS standings at the end of the regular season and wouldn't have qualified for a four-team playoff.

So the BCS will stick with the imperfect system it has instead of installing another.

"If it isn't broke," White said, "don't fix it."

Bush lauds Super Bowl champion Giants



WASHINGTON (AP)—Add this to the lore of championship ceremonies at the White House: President Bush believes in the Jessica Simpson jinx.

Bush, a Texas guy, lauded the New York Giants on Wednesday for winning the Super Bowl. Any football championship is big to the team and its fans, but this one was all the sweeter because it required a riveting, comeback effort against the New England Patriots, who were heavily favored and had not lost all year.

The president noted that along the way the Giants vanquished a team from his home state—the Dallas Cowboys. Many Dallas fans pinned their team's surprise playoff loss not on the Giants, but on Simpson. Seems the singer-actress was accused of being a distraction to her boyfriend, Dallas quarterback Tony Romo.

Apparently, Bush bought in.

"I'm a good sport," Bush said at the South Lawn ceremony. "We're going to send Jessica Simpson to the Democrat National Convention."

Everything is political.

The Giants beat the Patriots, 17-14, in what was considered one of the biggest upsets in pro football history.

Even Bush, an early-to-bed leader, stayed up late that February night to watch the Giants pull ahead and hang on.

He didn't skimp on the superlatives. "It turned out to be really one of the great, legendary football games in our nation's history," he said Wednesday.



AP
President Bush receives a football jersey from New York Giants wide receiver Amani Toomer, left, Wednesday, April 30, 2008, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington during a ceremony honoring the Super Bowl XLII champion New York Giants football team.

With players and coaches gathered behind him on a comfortable spring day, Bush praised the team for its resilience. The president gave a detailed recap of

the Giants' season, from the shaky start to the road victories to the final game of the regular season, when the Giants lost to the Patriots but gained confidence.

Nix out as Chargers assistant GM, Muller named senior exec

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Buddy Nix is out as assistant general manager of the San Diego Chargers, with the team saying he retired and his wife saying he resigned.

The Chargers sent out a news release late Tuesday afternoon saying Nix had resigned, and that the personnel department had been restructured by general manager A.J. Smith. The moves included hiring Randy Mueller, a former NFL GM, as senior executive.

Nix wasn't available for comment Tuesday night.

"He more or less resigned," his wife, Diann, said from the couple's home in Tennessee. "He came home this morning."

Neither Smith nor team president Dean Spanos immediately returned phone calls seeking comment.

The Chargers fell one win shy of going to the Super Bowl last season.

Nix, 68, joined the Chargers in 2001 as director of player personnel, following John Butler and Smith from Buffalo to San Diego to rebuild the sad-sack Chargers. Following Butler's death in 2003, Smith was promoted to GM and Nix to assistant general manager. Nix was well-respected as a talent evaluator.

Before joining the Chargers, Nix spent eight years as a scout for Buffalo. He coached in college for 32 years, most recently as head coach of the Ten-

nessee-Chattanooga from 1984-92.

"Buddy has had a long, distinguished career in coaching and scouting," Smith said in a statement released by the team. "I have had the privilege of working alongside him for 15 years in Buffalo and San Diego. He did an outstanding job. We appreciate his contributions and wish him well."

Smith promoted six executives and hired Mueller, the former general manager of the Miami Dolphins and New Orleans Saints.

Mueller was fired Dec. 31 by new Dolphins boss Bill Parcells. He was Dolphins GM for three seasons but in charge of personnel decisions only since coach Nick Saban left after the 2006 season. The Dolphins went an NFL-worst 1-15 last year. Mueller received mixed reviews for his moves in 2007, which included the acquisition of free agent linebacker Joey Porter and the selection of receiver Ted Ginn Jr. and quarterback John Beck in the draft.

Mueller was GM of the Saints in 2000 and 2001. The Saints won the NFC West title and earned their first-ever playoff victory in Mueller's first season with the team.

He served as a TV analyst for three seasons after being released from his Saints contract in 2002.

Mueller will scout the top player prospects throughout the country.

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Next to Subway

Govt cage league opening pushed back

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Inter-government Basketball League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz once again

practiced leniency to all participating teams, pushing back the opening of the annual cage league. Dela Cruz said they postponed the opening date to May 12, Monday, to give teams more time to complete the \$500 en-

trance fee. The deadline of payment is on May 8, Thursday. The league was supposed to open on May 5. Checks can be made payable to the Division of Sports and Recreation. Dela Cruz added he also introduced a payment scheme to

lessen the financial burden of the participating teams. He said that each team can make a \$250 down payment with the remaining balance need to be paid by the end of their third game. Thirteen teams have signified their intention of joining the

2008 season of the annual cage league for government agencies and departments. Games will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym conference room. The 13-team field is led by defending champion Office of the Public Auditor and last

year's runner-up Northern Marianas College-Proa. The other 11 squads are Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Health Center, Department of Corrections, Airport Rescue Fire Fighters, Tinian, Aguagat, Ports Police, Legislature, Fire, Department of Public Works/Procurement and Supply, and Mayor's Office.

The tournament will follow a single round-robin format with the Top 8 teams advancing to the double-elimination round playoffs.

Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with the first and second games scheduled at 6:30pm and 8pm.

King and Queen of the Diamonds return

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds will return this month with games to be held at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan and Capital Hill fields. Tournament coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said the first round of the co-ed slow-pitch softball tournament will be held on May 16 to

18 and it is open to all Saipan residents 18 years old and above. Games will be played at the "Tan Ge" field in the first day of the tournament while the last two days will be held at Capital Hill. Dela Cruz said he is limiting the competition to the first 10 teams that would sign up. The entrance fee is \$150 in the three-round tournament where the champions automatically qualify for the final in October.

The second round will be held on July 19 and 20 and the third and final round will be on Sept. 20 and 21. The second and third place teams in each round will play in a single-elimination format in the consolation draw with the fourth and final spot in the championship round at stake. Teams need to play in two out of the three rounds in order to qualify for the wild card playoff. The winner of the champion-

ship round will get a all-expense paid trip to Palau to represent Saipan in the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds finals in Koror in November. The deadline of submission of entries and payment is on May 15, Thursday, where a coaches meeting will also be held to further discuss the upcoming slow-pitch tournament. The meeting will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room at 6pm.

Two female players must need to play on the field at the same time. Interested teams can now get their waiver forms from Dela Cruz at the Ada Gym. For more information about the government King and Queen of the Diamonds, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.

OL'ACES

From Page 44

ters with 23 points while Keoni Chariton, who was scoreless in the second and third periods, ended up with 18 points. Viñas scattered 17 markers. Earlier, Ariel Jinang started things off for the Pacers, while William Opone put on the finishing touches as the CTSI-backed squad snapped out of its three-game slide pulling off a 91-76 decision against the Fixers. Jinang scored 17 of his team-high 25 points in the first half as the Pacers held on to a 41-35 halftime lead. Opone made 17 of his 23 markers in the second

half to secure the win for the Pacers. Ferdie Tobias contributed 18 points, while Adonis Macoto chipped in 13 more also for the Pacers. Bruce Berline scored a game-high 26 points to lead Fixers' scoring but failed to get the needed scoring support from his teammates. Mario Alegre and George Villasin managed to score 12 each for Fixers. GEC Pawnshop opens up today's twin-bill when they face the Taga Warriors in the 6:30pm masters division match, while the Giants clash with the still winless Star Waterkings in the 8pm second game. On Sunday, the Advance

X-Terminators will try to join Ol'Aces on top of the standings when they meet a hard-luck MIGS side at 3pm, while Bank of Saipan goes for a fourth straight win in the masters when they battle the Warriors at in the 4:30pm second game. The Storemasters will try to bounce back from their stinging loss against Ol'Aces when they collide with the Pawnbrokers in the 6pm nightcap. **First Game Tan Holdings/CTSI 91** – Jinang 25, Opone 23, Tobias 18, Macoto 13, Alcantara 6, Alejandro 2, Pasion 2, Solidum 2. **Fixers 76** – Berline 26, M. Alegre 12, Villasan 12, Dela Torre

7, Poquiz 6, Johnlend 5. Garcia 4, B. Alegre 2, Nepaial 2. **Scoring by quarters:** 18-18, 41-35, 60-55, 91-76. **Referees:** Jess Pabula and Dado Vistal. **Second Game Ol'Aces 107** – Cruz 23, Pelisamen 23, Diaz 16, Rabauliman 10, Camacho 9, P. Iguel 9, Lizama 6, L. Iguel 5, Rangamar 4, Pelisamen 2. **Price Costco 81** – D. Sablan 23, Chariton 18, Viñas 17, Johnson 7, Duenas 4, Irinaka 3, Lau-ron 3. **Scoring by quarters:** 25-11, 57-38, 85-53, 105-81. **Referees:** Noel Delos Santos and Michael A. White.

REZNE

From Page 44

Wong's 100m backstroke, meanwhile, was just tenths of a second off Juan Camacho's record-setting pace of 1:07.03 he recorded in 2006. Runner-up finishes in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle by Wong were also nothing to sneeze at, according to Kimura. He said his ward's 29.18 in the 50m butterfly was just .17 off the 29.01 Seung Jin Lee swam in 2001 and the 26.18 Wong recorded in the 50m freestyle is comparable to the 25.68 set by the immortal John Sakovich way back in 1987. The Tsunami Saipan head

coach said after the GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet, Wong's next meet is the Guam Championship scheduled at end of next month. For his part, Wong himself admitted that his performance last weekend was under-par for his standards. "Well, I didn't swim great. That's basically the down to reality point. I was exhausted from schoolwork and extracurricular activities. [Add to that] it was so hot and arid on meet day, and I tried to get as much shade, water, and rest." Wong said curiously, he had a lot of training prior to the meet and in fact missed just one practice in two months after the Saipan Invitational Meet last March

"And I really did swim my hardest, but my body just didn't feel that precise and energetic. I'm just picking myself up again, and start training again," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*. Aside from Wong, eight other junior swimmers—Kaisei Toda, Takumi Sugie, Ritsuki Umeda, Daisuke Fitial, Kosei Toda, Kaito Yanai, Ryosei Toda, and Fumika Umeda—also flew to Guam over the weekend. They competed in the afternoon's 2008 Guam Short Course Championships and scooped up a total of 19 medals. Wong had good words for the youngest of Tsunami Saipan's swimmers. "I'm really glad the smaller

group that ranged from 7-12 years old did really well. They are really motivated and into the sport. I just want to be the best example for them to follow. They motivate me." Kimura, meanwhile, extended the club's thanks to Judi and Tony Mosley, Tsunami Guam coach Toshi Iijima, Bob Yoshida, and Katsunori Usui for all their support during their stint in the 2008 GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet Guam. Kimura added that aside from the competition, Wong and company were also able to practice with members of Tsunami Guam swimming team at the Leo Palace Resort on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES						
MLB STANDINGS					Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 1	
AMERICAN LEAGUE					Texas 11, Kansas City 9	
East Division					L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 1	
	W	L	Pct	GB	Pittsburgh 13, N.Y. Mets 1	
Boston	17	12	.586	—	St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 2	
Baltimore	15	12	.556	1	Arizona 8, Houston 7	
Tampa Bay	15	12	.556	1	San Francisco 3, Colorado 2	
New York	14	15	.483	3	Washington 3, Atlanta 2, 12 innings	
Toronto	11	17	.393	5 1/2	San Diego 4, Philadelphia 2	
Central Division					L.A. Dodgers 13, Florida 1	
Chicago	14	12	.538	—	Chicago Cubs 19, Milwaukee 5	
Minnesota	13	14	.481	1 1/2		
Cleveland	13	15	.464	2		
Detroit	13	15	.464	2		
Kansas City	12	15	.444	2 1/2		
West Division						
Los Angeles	18	11	.621	—		
Oakland	17	12	.586	1		
Seattle	13	15	.464	4 1/2		
Texas	10	18	.357	7 1/2		
NATIONAL LEAGUE						
East Division						
Florida	15	12	.556	—		
New York	14	12	.538	1/2		
Philadelphia	15	13	.536	1/2		
Atlanta	12	15	.444	3		
Washington	11	17	.393	4 1/2		
Central Division						
Chicago	17	10	.630	—		
St. Louis	18	11	.621	—		
Milwaukee	15	12	.556	2		
Houston	13	16	.448	5		
Cincinnati	12	17	.414	6		
Pittsburgh	11	16	.407	6		
West Division						
Arizona	20	8	.714	—		
Los Angeles	14	13	.519	5 1/2		
San Francisco	13	16	.448	7 1/2		
Colorado	11	17	.393	9		
San Diego	11	17	.393	9		
Yesterday's Games						
Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 3						
Boston 2, Toronto 1						
Detroit 6, N.Y. Yankees 2						
Cleveland 8, Seattle 3						

JCI

From Page 44

Aside from the cash and in-kind prizes a spanking new 2008 Mazda MP3 sports sedan will be awarded to the lucky golfer who managers a hole-in-one in the JCI Golf Fundraiser. Sign-up and registration for the event is 11:30am on game day itself, May 17. Proceeds from the competition will help pay part of the

expected \$40,000 cost for JCI's annual cultural exchange program to South Korea set for June 3 and 6. According to JCI CNMI president Kim Ji Yoon their group is looking to send 20 students to the Land of the Morning Calm. The 20 will be joined by three staff from the Saipan Mayor's Office, five JCI members, and one media practitioner. Expected to join the golf fundraiser on May 17 are local Korean golfers, top government

employees, members of the Legislature, and businessmen. Entry fee for the golf fundraiser is \$100 (inclusive of green fee) and also entitles participants to take part in the awards banquet set on the evening of the tournament at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, beginning 6:30pm. The Junior Chamber International Inc. is a worldwide organization with nearly 400,000 members spanning some 105

countries worldwide. According to its website (www.jci.cc), the origin of JCI can be traced as far back as 1910 to the city of St. Louis, Missouri, USA, where a young man named Henry "Hy" Giessenbier dared to dream "impossible dreams." In order to tackle difficult civic problems while helping young people develop their business skills and effectiveness, Giessenbier gathered 32 young men and established the

Young Men's Progressive Civic Association, JCI's first local organization, at the Mission Inn in St. Louis, Missouri, on Oct. 13, 1915. JCI was officially founded in December 1944, on the premise that young people working for mutual understanding could prevent another Holocaust from developing in the future. It is unique for several reasons. One is the age limit of 18 to 40 for its members. The second is its concept that no officer

should serve more than one year and the third is the similarity in its structure to that of the United Nations Assembly. Most of all, it is unique in its basic approach that young people have a role in organizing projects and programs to fit the needs of the communities where they live. In the CNMI, JCI comprises two chapters—the JCI Saipan Chapter and the JCI Flame Tree Chapter.

'Another successful NMC Open'

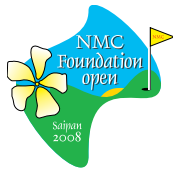


Jeff Taylor puts down his ball before making a putt in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.



Leina Kim tees off in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.

Photos and Text By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



NMC Foundation Open co-chair Ben Babauta thanked all 132 players that joined last Saturday's annual golf tournament for making the event successful.

Babauta, who is also president of the Northern Marianas College Foundation, said this year's tournament was very exciting with all the great hole-in-one prizes that were at stake and other prizes they have given to all the winners and in the raffle.

"Those who joined the HANMI golf tournament lead the successful list of participants. I am thankful for the support of the community and all volunteers that helped make this year's NMC Open successful," Babauta said.

He said that the golf fundraiser raised over \$93,000, which is three percent higher than last year's amount of \$91,500. "Participation also increased from 108 last year to 132 this year."

A number of golfers from Guam, Japan, and Korea also joined the tournament—raising the level of competition this year. Babauta thanked all local golf associations, especially the newly formed CNMI Women's Golf Association for their members' participation.

Babauta said the money would be used to continuously support the college's financial needs, programs, and assistance to infrastructure.

He added he expects next year's tournament to be even better. "Things are getting bigger and better every year. We always raise the bar and expect to have an exciting event every year."

Joung Hoon Park bested a tough field in the men's Championship Flight to win the 6th Annual NMC Foundation Open at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Park tamed the west course of the Kagman golf facility, shooting a three-over-par 75, to enjoy a two-shot lead over perennial title contender Jeff Taylor and Dan Singh, who battled it out for second place in a scorecard playoff.



Rick Kautz watches the direction of his tee shot in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.



Joe Sablan makes a putt in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.



Wilhelm Maui lines up a putt in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.



Former Superior Court associate judge Edward Manibusan practices his swing before making a putt in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.



Lito Mendoza watches the direction of his putt in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.



Jess Wabol watches the direction of his putt in last Saturday's NMC Foundation Open.

'Another successful NMC Open'



NMC Foundation Open co-chair Ben Babauta thanked all 132 players that joined last Saturday's annual golf tournament for making the event successful.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Mavericks fire Johnson after another playoff flop

From the start, Avery Johnson was a perfect fit as coach of the Dallas Mavericks. At the end, it was pretty obvious he wasn't.



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44 FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

Ol'Aces, Pacers in easy wins

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Ol'Aces and Tan Holdings/CTSI Pacers scored similar easy wins over separate foes in Wednesday night's games in the FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces coasted to a 107-81 win over Price Costco in the open division while the Pacers downed Fixers, 91-76, in the Masters class.

It was the fifth time Ol'Aces scored over 100 as they regained sole position of the top spot in the open division's nine-team field, while the Storemasters dropped to a 2-2 slate to tie the TASI Tours Giants in fifth place.



Ol'Aces led as much as 40 points in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter before Keoni Chariton and Dennis Viñas waxed hot midway through the game to trim the deficit by half.

Chariton and Viñas combined for 16 points in the Storemasters' telling rally but time was not on their side as Ol'Aces wisely used up the clock.

Jericho Cruz and Fred Pelisamen were again at the forefront of Ol'Aces' offense firing 23 points each to lead their team to their fifth straight win, while Ed

Diaz and Marvin Rabauliman scored 16 and 10 each.

David Sablan paced the Storemas-

See OL'ACES on Page 42

Rezne tops two races in Guam



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Rezne Wong, seen here in a file photo, won the 200m individual medley and the 100m backstroke during last weekend's 2008 GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet held last Saturday morning at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan mainstay Rezne Wong won two of four events he competed in during the 2008 GSF All Island Invitational Swim Meet held last Saturday morning at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

The Marianas High School student finished first in the 200m individual medley with a time of 2:17.46 and also topped the 100m backstroke after touching the tile in 1:08.38. He competed in the open division.

According to Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, although Wong failed to break any CNMI records, he came awfully close.

His result time in the 200m IM was just a second and change off the CNMI age group record of 2:16.56 set in 2003 by Dean Palacios.

See REZNE on Page 42

Lions chomp on McDonald's

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Victories are coming in too late for the Kagman Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos in the majors division of the Saipan Little League.

The Lions used two runs each in the first, second, and fifth innings to escape with a 7-3 win over

Team McDonald's on Tuesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Keene Deleon Guerrero batted and pitched his way in the game going 3-for-3 scoring twice with a triple and an RBI.

He then earned the win pitching 4 2/3 innings wherein he gave up three earned runs on six hits while striking out nine batters and walking three more.

David Muna relieved him in the top of the fifth when Kindo Vilagomez was up to bat. Muna, with two outs, gave up a single to Vilagomez before striking out Ryan Butag.

He preserved the win in the top of the sixth when he forced Clayton Sablan to ground out to a 4-3 play to Sean Castro, who then made the relay throw to Cedric Ada.

Muna then got the second out when he forced Ken Taguchi to ground out on a 5-3 putout play to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, who fielded it cleanly to Ada.

The game ended when Muna made Marino Ngeskebei hit an infield fly to shortstop Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero started the game with a first inning RBI single, and a bloop single to left in the third, before a connecting with an RBI triple in the fifth.

In yesterday's game, the AA Ent./TCC World Braves of Tanapag was playing the Tan Holdings Athletics A's at the "Tan Ge" Field. The Braves were holding on to a 12-7 lead in the top of the fifth.

JCI Golf Fundraiser set for May 17

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



golf fundraiser on May 17 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Organized by the local chapter of the JCI, the golf tournament aims to raise money to fund the group's yearly cultural exchange

program. This year, JCI CNMI again plans to bring local high school students to South Korea.

The tournament, dubbed simply as the JCI Golf Fundraiser, will have two categories—open and ladies. Champions from both division will each receive \$300

and second and third placers will take home in-kind prizes.

It will utilize the Calloway system to compute the net scores of participants.

See JCI on Page 42



Kim

Junior Chamber International will hold its 16th

Jericho Cruz of Ol'Aces collides with Price Costco's David Sablan in their game in the open division of the FMI Inter-Color Basketball League on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

